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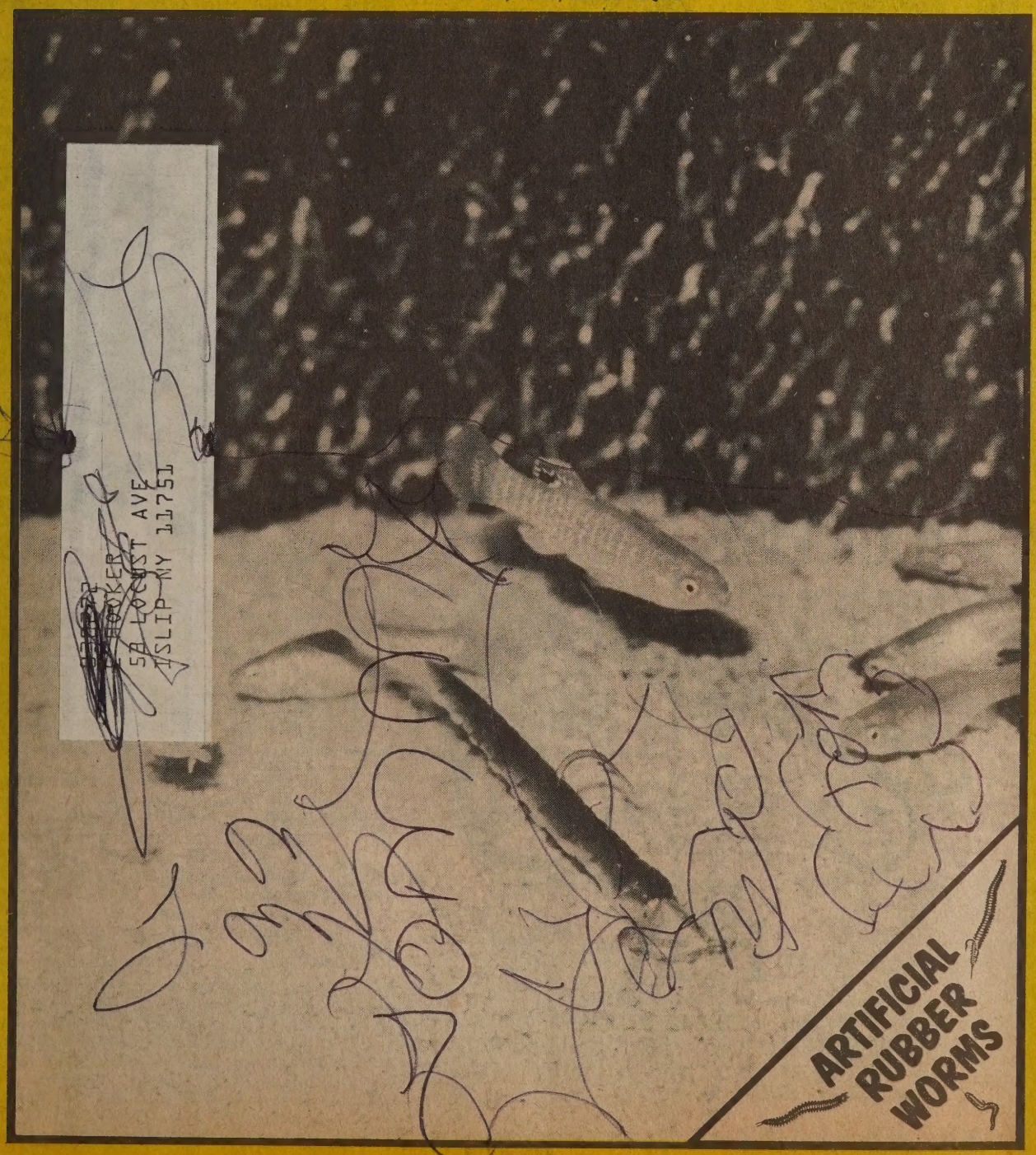
The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

FEBRUARY 28, 1980, ISSUE NO. 9



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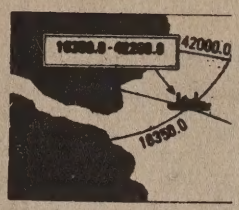

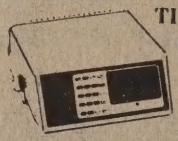

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A four-day seminar on the operation of a wide range of modern marine electronic equipment for owners of sailboats and cruising and fishing powerboats will be held March 8-11 aboard the 85' catamaran "Ebb Tide" at City Island, N.Y., sponsored by Griffith Marine Navigation, Inc., New Rochelle, New York, marine electronics specialist.

Jim Chapman, president, and John Schebendach, sales manager, yacht division, will host the educational program as a continuation of their highly successful public seminars initiated last year. Each day cocktails and a light lunch will be served at Noon aboard the vessel, which is certified to carry up to 150 passengers and accommodates more than 100 in its heated main salon.

Attendance is only by advance reservation with a daily limit of 125 participants. Reservations must be made by phoning Schebendach at (914) 636-4340 or (212) 828-5554. There will be a daily registration fee of $2 per person, payable upon registration each day starting at 9AM.

The curriculum will include lectures, discussion and operating demonstrations on VHF and single sideband (SSB) radio, wind systems and speedos for sailboats, auto pilots, radar, depth indicators, fish finders and recorders, and Loran C. Working displays of many different makes and types of electronic gear will be on display all four days.

The "Ebb Tide" will remain at dockside for Saturday, Sunday and Monday sessions, March 8-10, but will depart for a demonstration cruise on Tuesday, March 11, sharply at 9:45 a.m., returning at 3PM. The vessel is berthed at the first pier on the right hand side of City Island Ave., after crossing the bridge onto the island. It is a diesel-powered aluminum catamaran party fishing boat owned by Captain Joe Ferrara.

Subjects are scheduled as follows: Sat. AM-VHF and SSB radio; Sat. PM-sailboat wind systems and speedos; Sun. AM- auto pilots; Sun. PM-radar; Mon. all day-depth instruments, and Tues. all day-Loran C.

Speakers will include: Geoff Tellett and Schebendach of Griffith on radio; Dick McGilvray, Kenyon Marine, Guilford, CT, wind and speed instruments; Brian Handley, Raytheon Marine, Manchester, NH, radar; Lee Savery, Datamarine, Pocasset, MA and Roy Thompson, Furuno, Inc., New York, depth instruments; and Gil Nelson, Sim-

The Long Island FISHERMAN

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About the Cover—

A "Shimmy Worm" attached to a lead head jig resembles a short worm trying to find a hole to crawl into with its tail floating upwards. See the article "A Worm, But Not A Worm" on page 21 of this issue. *Photo by Dick Mermon*

COMING NEXT WEEK: **PORGY FISHING**

Richard Reina, PUBLISHER
Al Ristori, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett, NEW JERSEY EDITION
Scott J. Simons, EDITOR
Fred Golofaro, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tim Coleman, NEW ENGLAND EDITION
W. A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
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The Fighting Chair

with Scott Simons

BIG TURNOUT AT HEARINGS ON DRAGGING & FISH TRAPS

Approximately 300 people attended the public hearings held by the Senate Subcommittee on the Long Island Marine District on Saturday in the Babylon Town Hall on proposed legislation that concerns recreational fishermen. The bills would ban dragging in Great South Bay and restrict it in Moriches and Shinnecock Bay, regulate gill nets, prohibit the construction of fish traps from the jetties to the lighthouse at Montauk, and place an eight inch minimum size limit on flounder. (For the particulars on each of these bills, refer to the *Fighting Chair* editorial in last week's issue of L.I.F.).

The hearing was well attended by sport fishing organizations that spoke in favor of all the bills except the one for flounder. These included the Captree Baymen's Association, New York Sportfishing Council, Save Our Stripers, Babylon Tuna Club, Bay Shore Tuna Club, United Mobile Sport Fishermen, Long Island Beach Buggy Association, Moriches Bay Fishing Stations Association, Great Gun Anglers, Farragut Striper Club, Moriches Anglers and many others. Commercial fishermen were also well represented by Richard Miller, a paid lobbyist for the Long Island Fisherman's Association, Arnold Leo and Stuart Vorpahl of the East Hampton Baymen's Association, East Hampton Town Councilman Larry Cantwell, the Montauk Boatmen's Ass. Carl Darenberg, Jr., and Jonathan Edwards—the owner of the fish trap at North Bar.

From the testimony given at the hearing it appears that the dragging bill will become law this year, but there may be a major revision first. Speaker after speaker pointed out the problems of placing a complete ban on dragging in Great South Bay while only limiting the hours that they may operate in Moriches and Shinnecock, where as many as twenty to twenty-five boats at a time were dragging last summer for fluke and flounder in these confined bodies of water. For the first time, commercial fishermen also admitted that five draggers were secretly dragging in Great South Bay almost every night last year. They claimed that by cultivating the bottom and catching a lot of fish they were actually helping those who fish from Captree open boats to catch more fish. There is a rumor going around that shortly after this statement was made a picture of George Washington hanging in the Babylon Town Hall fell off the wall and conked a commercial fisherman on the head. Before this rumor goes any further, we must say that it is not true.

Arnold Leo of the East Hampton Baymen's Association spoke on their behalf against the proposed legislation prohibiting fish traps in Suffolk County Park and Montauk State Park. His interesting presentation started with his reading of a newspaper article printed in 1924 that referred to events as recent as 1885 or thereabouts, then worked his way up to the River and Harbor Act of 1899. At this point Mr. Leo must have thought that his presentation was running longer than his allotted time of ten minutes, so he skipped the Spanish American War, World War I and the Great Depression and jumped to World War II. Now, you may think that this all has nothing to do with fish traps in 1980—but you're wrong. Ya see, the commercial guys claim that this is a "traditional" fish trap area since the first one was bought from a Montauk Indian for an umbrella rig a few hundred years ago. Problem is there hasn't been a trap in this area for more than seventeen years, and there has been only one or two there since WW II, so how could the baymen still contend they had "traditional rights" to an area they had *voluntarily* abandoned? Easy—it was World War II's fault. But now that commercial fishermen have recovered from the war (which only ended thirty-six years ago) they are ready to get back to "traditional" business as usual. But it seems to us that New York State obtained all "rights" to the 724-acres of Montauk State Park when it was purchased with taxpayers' money in 1924.

Which brings us to a point that L.I.F. made in its testimony at the

hearing. (Managing Editor William Muller spoke in support of the dragging legislation, while I spoke in support of the fish trap proposal.) Recreational fishermen must adhere to many rules and regulations for the privilege of fishing in our state parks. For example, a permit is required for fishing in a state park after dark, and in 1979 over 8,300 were issued to recreational sport fishermen by the Long Island State Park Commission. The permit is free, and we have never had a complaint from a reader that a permit is required for this privilege. A permit is also required to construct a fish trap in a state park. This permit is also free. But commercial fishermen claim that New York State doesn't have any "right" to require them to have a permit!

Recreational fishermen who want to use a beach vehicle on the few state park beaches where they are allowed must purchase a permit for $15. In 1979, recreational sport fishermen purchased 1,731 of these permits, raising $25,965 in revenues for New York State. Paying, in effect, for the privilege of fishing in a state park. Recreational sport fishermen also pay $4,000 in permit fees to fish in a particular state park where only a limited number of permits are issued due to the size and ecology of the area. Recreational sport fishermen who want to fish in the Suffolk County Park at Montauk, which includes such popular surf casting spots as Shagwong Point and Gin Beach, must not only be residents of Suffolk County but must purchase a $15 permit to use their beach buggies. In 1979, three thousand three hundred of these permits were purchased by recreational sport fishermen for $49,500. So sport fishermen spend a grand total of $79,465 on permits to fish in parks on Long Island. QUESTION: what are *commercial* fishermen willing to pay?

The fish trap in Montauk State park last year was the *only* commercial enterprise that operated in a state park that did not enhance recreational activities and pay for the privilege of conducting business. For example, the food concessions at Jones Beach, Captree State Park and Montauk State Park are all commercial enterprises. But their purpose is to provide food and drink to those seeking recreation in a state park facility, and they pay the state a large percentage of their gross for this privilege. The same concession setup exists for the Captree Bait Station and the gas stations on the state parkways. If woodlands in state parks need pruning, a lumber or firewood company pays for the privilege. If a film company wants to make a commercial film in a state park, it must pay the state a high fee for every day it shoots. And the commercial fishermen? They don't even want to recognize the state's right to issue them a *free* permit.

In justifying their contention that the State of New York has no business or authority concerning fish traps, the commercial fishermen always refer to the fact that the Army Corps of Engineers is charged with controlling fish pound traps under the River and Harbor Act of 1899. What they neglect to do, however, is to tell anyone what the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. 9729 actually says. This notice contains all the Federal rules and regulations concerning fish traps that are presently in effect and all trap fishermen receive a copy of it at the beginning of each year. For the record, we print in its entirety *Condition One* of that notice:

> *That this authority does not give any property rights either in real estate or material, or any exclusive privileges; and that it does not authorize any injury to private property or invasion of private rights, or any infringement of Federal, State, or local laws or regulations, nor does it obviate the necessity of obtaining State assent to the work authorized. IT MERELY EXPRESSES THE ASSENT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMEN SO FAR AS CONCERNS THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF NAVIGATION. (see Cummings v. Chicago, 188 U.S. 410).*

The key words here are *"Nor does it obviate the necessity of obtaining STATE ASSENT to the work authorized."* In other words, the Federal Government is of the opinion that the STATE GOVERNMENT should control and regulate fish traps. Little wonder that commercial fishermen have chosen not to bring this to the attention of those in state government.

Jonathan Edwards, owner/operator of the fish trap constructed illegally at North Bar last year, stated in his testimony that he didn't catch anything from April through August, and then his trap was vandalized by recreational surf fishermen—even though there is absolutely no proof that this was true, despite his posting of a $1500 reward for information on who did it. Did he ever stop to think that perhaps a rival gill netter did the deed? Or by some of the other trap fishermen in the area who may have felt threatened by the needless social conflict that he created by constructing a trap on one of the most famous surf casting spots on the East Coast? In any case, after the netting was repaired and the trap was back in operation it was again destroyed by a school of small

(Continued on next page.)

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bluefish that swam in one side and ate a hole out the other. In short, very few fish were caught except skates, according to Mr. Edwards' testimony. Which leads one to wonder why he is continuing to fight to put the trap back in 1981.

The Montauk Boatmen's Association also gave strong support to the commercial fishermen by coming out against the fish trap proposal. Carl Darenberg, Jr., the MBA's president, also revealed in his testimony that they were affiliated with the East Hampton Baymen's Association and the Long Island Fishermen's Association—laying to rest the mistaken belief that MBA charterboats care anything about the recreational fishermen who pay hard earned money to charter their boats. Mr. Darenberg also had a few unkind words for The Long Island Fisherman because we brought the existence of the trap to the attention of sport fishermen. (Although we would like to take credit for this, in all honesty we can't. The story was originally broken by Frank Keating in his Newsday column almost two weeks prior to our first editorial comment on the matter.) But in any case, we'd like to thank William Miller of the United Mobile Sport Fishermen and the others who came to our defense while giving their testimony. And a tsk, tsk, slap-on-the-wrist to the sport fisherman in the audience who yelled out something like "Kill anymore whales?" at the end of Mr. Darenberg's enlightening testimony.

Special thanks should go to State Senator Owen Johnson who is the chairman of this new subcommittee and has been showing great interest in the concerns of recreational sport fishermen on Long Island. Sport fishermen living in his Babylon district should keep this in mind next time election day rolls around.

Scott F. Simons

---

rad, Inc., Armonk, NY, and Ken Walsh, Texas Instruments, Westfield, NJ, Loran C.

Announcing this marine educational program, Chapman said: "We are pleased to renew by popular demand our seminar program prior to the 1980 boating and fishing season and delighted to provide such knowledgeable experts to explain and demonstrate the various types of electronics for boating. This is for serious boatmen who want to increase their knowledge of marine electronics and improve their boating skills."

A member of the National Marine Electronics Association and the National Marine Manufacturers Assocsiation, Griffith is headquartered at 134 North Avenue, New Rochelle, and has a staff of 30, including 16 technicians for installations, service and repair.

CHUM LINES

EX-LONG ISLANDER MISSES THE ACTION

As a former Long Island Sound fisherman now living in the Catskill Mountains area, I thought some of you might be interested in this bit of news.

I still do my share of casting for the big ones only now I do it in the many trout streams that meander through these imposing mountains. The many streams offer the sportsman both native and stocked game fish. Although the technique of fishing is somewhat different, the challenge remains.

As a bonus to my relocating I have been invited to join a sportsman's club that has hunting, camping, hiking and target shooting facilities. Incidentally, I find that there are a few membership openings available for those interested. Call or write to the address below.

Nowadays when my friends from down state call and tell me the run of stripers and blues has begun, I throw my "sticks" in the Bronco and head south to the Sound and enjoy the best of both worlds. *Jack Watson, Pine Hill, N.Y. 914-254-5668.*

RIGGING JELLYWORMS

I would like to take this opportunity to compliment The Long Island Fisherman on the splendid work that you all have done in giving so much pleasure to me as a subscriber. Your articles plus the information in your magazine have been very useful. I would appreciate it if you could do me a favor.

I would like to know how to rig the jellyworm, the salty dog, and the Mr. Twister for weakfish and also the techniques that are used to fish them.

I am planning a trip to the Peconic Bay area in mid-May for weakfish, so any additional on the above mentioned information will be very useful. I have looked through the past issues, but cannot find this information. If you have had this information in a past issue, I would appreciate knowing what issue I

could find it in. *Wm. LeFurgy, Danbury, Ct.*

There is no one way to rig a jellyworm much to the dismay of some fishermen who find themselves with more choices than time. Some fishermen simply push a worm on a leadhead, others use bucktails, small diamond jigs, and tins. Other rigs can become complicated. For example, you can use a sliding egg sinker with no weight (except the hook) in the worm. Thus, as you retrieve the worm dances a little above the bottom while the sinker raises puffs of sediment. We have also heard of fishermen using plastic worms with a piece of sea worm, bait "walking" rigs such as the Gapen's Bait-Walker, and others who let the worm drift (unweighted) in the current. However, for the what has become known as the standard rigging procedure, read the following past issues of L.I.F.: 1978 Issue #1 and 1979 Issue #22. W.A. Muller.

CAN WE CHARTER A CLUB?

Myself and my fellow fishermen are very interested in chartering a fishing club; that is, we would like to make it an official club as our club has been in existence for 3 years already. I would appreciate it if you could send me some information on this. *G. Mancuso, Bklyn, New York.*

To the best of our knowledge it isn't possible to charter a fishing club simply because there isn't any agency that engages in this service. When there were officials contests (such as Schaefer & L.I.F.), it was possible to register a club as an official participant. These contests no longer exist. Other clubs join the Nassau County Fish & Game Association and this is a way to add the name of your club to others in a common cause. Since your question isn't clear, what kind of registry do you want, it is hard to direct you. Dr. W. Muller.

BOATING

A 13 lesson Safe Boating course will be given at the Half Hollow Hills High School, Vanderbilt Parkway, Half Hollow Hills, on Thursday nights, beginning February 28, 1980, by Flotilla 22-3 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The course will include boat handling, weather, rules of the road, charts and navigation, marine engines, radiotelephone procedure and marlinspike seamanship.

Young boatmen, ages 10-16 can participate in a 3-lesson course in order to qualify for a license to operate a motor boat.

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In a recent column I outlined the 1980 IGFA (International Game Fish Association) freshwater world record program, which is a virtually wide open fishing contest that will lead to the establishment of a new freshwater world record keeping system. Since

NATIONAL SCENE
with Al Ristori

IGFA OPENS CONTEST TO ALL

then, IGFA has decided to do the same thing in saltwater. Until this year, the IGFA yearly contest had been restricted to members, but in 1980 will be open to all.

Just as in the case of the freshwater contest, the reason for opening this up to the public is to get as great a number of entries as possible—thus enabling the IGFA to determine if there are popular species not presently listed in the record book. The nomal contest minimum weight of six pounds has been lowered to one pound, and there is also no longer any requirement that the weight of the fish must equal or surpass the breaking strength of the line. Therefore, many of the popular small species in our area will be eligible for consideration. What's more, if enough of you enter your porgies and winter flounders, those species may well become permanent additions to the world record list. I suspect that Scott Simons will stuff the entry box with porgies, while I'll work hard on my specialties—bergalls and sea robins. Now if only the blowfish would make a comeback!

Entries will be accepted in the 6, 12, 20, 30, 50, 80, and 130 lb. line classes; and in 6, 10, 12, and 15 lb. tippet classes for the fly rod set. At the end of the contest IGFA will study all entries to determine which additional species should be considered for world records and what the heaviest acceptable line class for each new species will be. The heaviest approved catch in each line and tippet class category will then be designated as the initial world record to be published in the 1981 edition of the annual "World Record Game Fishes" book, and world record certificates will be issued to the winners.

No one participating will lose out completely. Contest certificates will be awarded to first, second and third place winners for heaviest overall catches, and certificates of participation will be issued to all entrants. All of this is a further indication of the expanded outloook of this great organization. In recent years many previously ignored superb game fish (such as jack crevalle, little tunny, Atlantic bonito and African pompano) have been added to the list of recognized species. By the way, the little tunny is the species we know as false albacore, and which is called bonito in Florida and the Gulf of Mexico.

I've long felt it was ironic that IGFA has recognized sea bass, but not porgies; cod, but not haddock; fluke, but not flounders. The difference in maximum size was probably a major factor, but the taking over of the freshwater records (with the popular bluegills, crappies, white bass, etc.) has made that a moot point. Saltwater panfish should now get the same recognition, and they probably will if enough entries are received. This may also represent an opening for many of the fine tropical game and food fish that are still ignored, probably because of the identification problems involved. Among these are the many groupers and snappers. The black and yellowfin groupers, and yellowtail, mutton, mangrove, red and cubera snappers are all good game fish and reasonably widespread in distribution.

IGFA rules must be adhered to for all catches entered and existing IGFA record or contest application forms may be used. Copies of rules and forms are available from IGFA, 3000 East Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316. It's well worthwhile to become a member of this fine organization while you're at it. A regular membership is only $15 and will bring you the bi-monthly newsletter, plus the "World Record Game Fishes" book that is worth the cost of a membership alone.

Metropolitan Anglers Establish IGFA Records

The latest issue of the IGFA's "International Marine Angler" newsletter lists six new records taken in the "Fisherman's" area. Topping the list is the 1,080 lb. mako shark taken by James Melanson, fishing with Captain Frank Mundus, out of Montauk. That huge mako not only established a fifty pound line class record, but also defeated the previous all tackle mark. A couple of exceptional bluefish from western Long Island Sound rewrote the book on thirty pound line. Charles Toth, Jr. nailed a 24 lb. 13 oz. blue at Bell Island off Norwalk, Connecticut on July 20 to break a North Carolina record of twenty-two pounds set way back in 1969. Then, on September 29, Erin McDonnel Brown bested a 24½ lb. blue in Larchmont Harbor—beating the old women's record of 21½ lbs. set at Truro, Massachusetts in 1970. The amazing thing about these catches is that they beat long standing records by such great margins. Just as North Carolina held the spotlight on huge bluefish in the late Sixties and early Seventies, it looks as if western Long Island Sound now has the edge!

The true, long finned albacore is one of the most important game fish in southern California waters. However, that species doesn't grow as large there as it does in the Atlantic. Therefore, all of the light tackle records are up for grabs in the canyon—where albacore usually average forty to fifty pounds. Two records that did go last year were the women's twelve pound, which was upped to thirty-four pounds by Phyllis Linett, fishing out of Montauk on August 18; and the women's fifty pound record, which went to Mary Lee Ferrigno for her fifty-six pounder taken out of Fire Island on July 21. The other new record from our area was the 393 lb. blue shark caught off Montauk on fifty pound test by Roy Carpenter on September 8. That broke a Montauk record, that had stood for ten years, by 21½ lbs.

In looking through the new records, I was disappointed to note that all the new Atlantic bonito records came from Madeira and the Canary Islands. The all tackle record was pushed up to 13 lbs. 3 oz., but I can testify that we have "green" bonito bigger than that in our waters. On October 25, I dropped a Sekora umbrella rig under a school of small bluefish off North Bar at Montauk Point and thought I had hooked into a large false albacore. Instead it turned out to be a 13¼ lb. bonito—the biggest I've ever seen, but probably not all that unusual very late in the fall. Since the catch was made on wire line, I couldn't submit it for recognition. Ironically, that was the second potential all tackle world record I caught on wire line last year. In April I caught, weighed and released a 19 lb. horse-eye jack at Chub Cay in the Bahamas. That's another of the newly recognized species and I'm sure the records will soon be much higher.

The porbeagle shark has all but disappeared from our waters, and the English are rapidly taking away all our records. Two Montauk records that fell last year were the men's twelve pound (M. H. Merrill's sixty-six pound catch of 1958 was raised to 109 lbs.) and men's 30 lb., where Carl Monaco's 191½ lb. trophy in 1964 was displaced by a 196 lb. Cornwall porbeagle.

★COMING SOON★
The Case for a Saltwater License
Don't miss this series of articles starting in the March 6 issue of L.I.F. which will be on a topic that concerns all sportfishermen—the continuing controversy over the implementation of a saltwater license. Don't miss it!

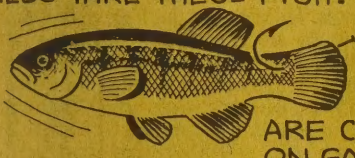
WINTER WHITE PERCH

BY FRED GUARDINEER

NOT A PERCH AT ALL, BUT RATHER A SEA BASS, WHITE PERCH ARE NORMALLY A TIDAL-BRACKISH WATER FISH OF THE ATLANTIC COAST FROM THE CAROLINAS TO NOVA SCOTIA, COMMON ALONG LONG ISLAND, LOWER HUDSON RIVER, NEW JERSEY AND NEW ENGLAND WATERWAYS WHERE THEY ARE FISHED ALL YEAR WITH BOTH BAIT AND LURES.

BIGGEST PROBLEM IS TO FIND THE FISH, BUT ONCE A SCHOOL IS LOCATED, THE FISHING IS FAST FOR THESE ½ TO 2 LB. FISH.

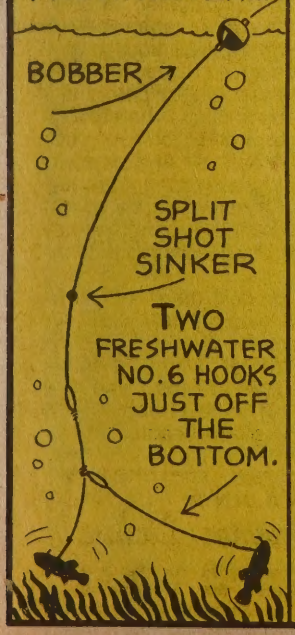
SMALL LIVE KILLIES ARE THE BEST WINTER BAIT. BLOODWORMS AND SHRIMP ALSO TAKE THESE FISH.



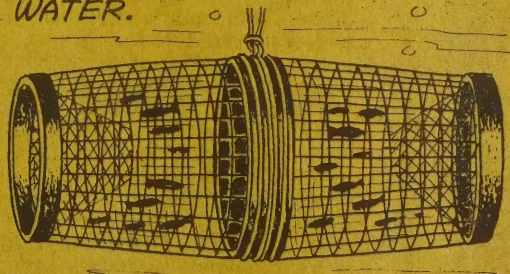
IN THE 30'S & 40'S THIS ADAPTABLE FISH SWEPT INTO MOST OF THE LAKES OF THE NORTHEAST. IN N.Y. STATE IT WENT UP THE HUDSON RIVER TO THE MOHAWK IN 1934 – ONEIDA LAKE BY 1950 AND INTO LAKE ERIE IN 1953. THEY CAN AND OFTEN DO OVERPOPULATE A LAKE AND BECOME STUNTED.

IN FRESHWATER, WHITE PERCH ARE CAUGHT LIKE ANY PANFISH ON GARDEN WORMS, MINNOWS, BUGS ETC. TROLLING A MEPPS SPINNER & WORM COMBO TOOK THEM FOR ME.

LIGHT TACKLE SIMILAR TO SNAPPER FISHING IS USED IN BOTH SALT AND FRESHWATER...



KILLIES FOR BAIT CAN BE CAUGHT IN WINTER IN CANALS IN BAITED KILLY TRAPS. LOWER TRAP ABOUT 1½ FT. BELOW THE LOW TIDE MARK. KILLIES STAY ALIVE LONGER IN PAIL *WITHOUT WATER*.



SEA RUN TROUT AND FRESHWATER BLACK BASS ARE OFTEN CAUGHT ON THE WHITE PERCH BAIT!

THESE FISH ARE USUALLY OUT OF SEASON.

THERE IS SORT OF A "CULT" OF WINTER WHITE PERCH FISHERMEN WHO GO ABOUT THEIR SPORT QUIETLY AS THE BEST SPOTS FROM SHORE ARE GENERALLY ON PRIVATE SHOREFRONT PROPERTY WHERE PERMISSION IS NEEDED TO PARK, ACCESS TO FISH OR LAUNCH CARTOP BOATS.

FISH TALK
with William A. Muller

Noses, Worms & Bacteria

BEFORE WE START! Just a reminder about our contest. To date, we have received many interesting letters and I have enjoyed many of them. It isn't too late to send your letter in and still be eligible for the first month's prize in April, since I will not select a winner until the very end of March. If you are interested, send your letters to me in care of The Long Island Fisherman and you may still win a Shakespeare spinning rod. Please indicate on the outside of the envelope the words "**Rod Contest.**"

TODAY'S TOPICS. Noses, worms, and bacteria may seem like an odd combination, although in some parts of the world these three might be more related than you might think. However, if we dismiss the possibility of rare and terrible exotic tropical diseases, and if we remember that this is a fishing publication, then there must be some other reason why I intend to mix the three together. The reason turns out to be letters from readers with interesting questions and follow-up comments. Take a letter from Charles Calhoun that goes back a ways. "Regarding your opening statement of September 27, Issue #8, **Keeping Your Nose to the Grindstone.** I live in Astoria and for sometime now, I have seen a small boat fishing in the East River on the Queens side, from a point just south of the Triboro Bridge to a point opposite an area called the P.A.L. Park. This boat will drift on the outgoing tide with three men aboard and each catching at least two fish on each drift. I just recently started to watch in earnest and witnessed twelve such drifts with only one drift being unproductive. I have been under the impression that fish from the East River are not fit to eat. Are these fishermen catching fish for sale, or are they EPA scientists doing a survey?"

FIT TO EAT! The food quality of shellfish and finfish are often confused, since so much is said and written about shellfish being dangerous if taken from polluted waters. However, shellfish do not move around too much and, therefore, they tend to concentrate some microorganisms and chemicals. Finfish, on the other hand, are here today and gone tomorrow and the physiology is different from shellfish so that they do not accumulate dangerous microorganisms. Thus, finfish from polluted waters can be considered fit to eat. On the other hand, finfish do concentrate toxic chemicals and thus finfish can be considered to present some danger on the dinner table. For example, Mercury in tuna and swordfish and PCBs in striped bass, eels, and white perch have caused many people to think twice about eating these species in large quantities. Thus, some of us may consider finfish or some species unfit to eat. However, we cannot say that we will only avoid those species when they come from polluted waters because to do so would not properly address the problem. Fish swim around a lot and many species migrate hundreds and even thousands of miles. In most cases, analysis of tissues reveals that the point of capture of a finfish may have nothing to do with the level of contamination. Perhaps the reality of the situation calls for eating fish caught in most waters, but do so on a limited basis for those species that have been identified as possibly posing a threat to human health.

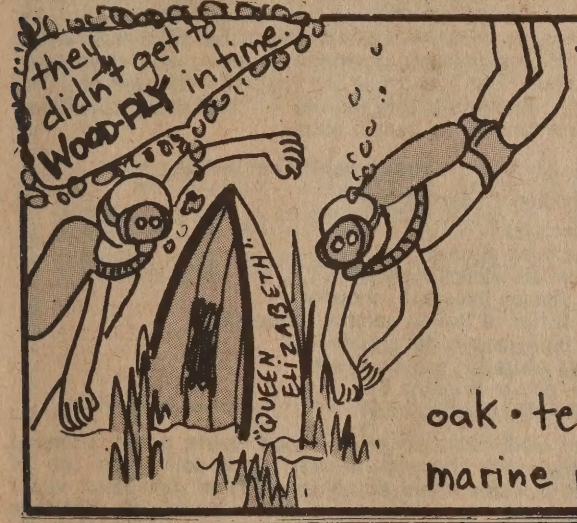
ON TO WORMS. Frank A. Mortillo recently wrote in requesting information about the habitats of sea worms. "I enjoy The Long Island Fisherman and all its articles. Please advise me about the habitat of both blood worms and sand worms, since I would like to try my hand at digging my own worms. When I was young, my Uncle Tony would always dig his own worms somewhere near LaGuardia Airport. However, before I was old enough to learn about some of his hotspots (he was the family master fisherman), he passed away. Now that I have reached the age in my life where I can take extra time off (I am thirty-seven-years-old), I would like to try my hand at digging my own bait." Well, Frank, I guess that in good conscience I should advise you that you'll probably be better off if you buy your worms. Most local bait and tackle dealers are well stocked with high quality lively worms. This puts the digging burden onto those who are equipped and trained to do so. Most worms in local stores come from Maine where the fifty foot tides expose vast mud flats that allow local people to hunt for the annelid worms. There was a time, long ago, when a certain portion of the worm bait available on Long Island was dug on Long Island. However, housing development, filled-in marshes, pollution, and over-harvesting gradually reduced the productivity of local habitats. Today, it is possible to dig your own worms, but it will require considerable effort. First, let's look at sea worm habitats. There is some difference between the preferred habitats of sand worms and blood worms although both may live in the same area at times. As the name implies, sand worms prefer a sandy habitat, although pure sand isn't very productive for this species. The best sediments for sand worms are sandy mud where there are some stones, rocks, shells, or other debris. The sediment should not be so hard that it is difficult to work with a spade or pitchfork, since the highly compressed sediments will be a difficult place for the worms to burrow. Sand worms are usually very abundant on blue mussel bars when the supporting sediment is sandy mud. Commonly, a dozen or so nice big sand worms can be collected by turning mussel clusters or large rocks over at low tide. To dig the worms you'll need a sturdy spade or pitchfork. Select a suitable area and dig a hole by lifting a small area of sediment and turning it over next to the hole. Spread the lifted sediment around gently and examine for worms. Lift the worms carefully after you remove surrounding sediment because if you attempt to pull a worm out of its crawl space, you will most likely break it into several pieces. Place the worms into a cardboard container that has a layer of damp newspaper on the bottom. Add some damp clump-type seaweed. The storage environment for the worms should not be wet—only damp. Keep the worms in a cool place like a refrigerator, but protect from freezing.

BLOODWORMS. Bloodworms are usually smaller than sand worms and are very red, rather than brownish-red or copper red. Bloodworms can be found in soft muddy areas. They will usually cluster, so that one spadeful will yield several while others will yield little, if anything at all. Bloodworms should be stored in the same way described for sand worms. Now, local diggers and experts may have evolved their own special and preferred tricks of digging and storage so that my above suggestions should not be taken as the only way to do it! Let me repeat that, although there are still a few areas that will produce good numbers of seaworms, that these areas are neither abundant or well known. Most folks who do know of a good area guard that information more carefully than a good fishing spot. To find a good spot, you'll simply have to look hard and test many places. Also, worm digging is tough on the arms and back. If you aren't in good shape, you may end up spending many times more for physician's fees than you would have spent on a dozen worms. It's worth thinking about. Oh yes, make sure that you own a pair of high quality boots, rubber gloves, and disposable pants. Seriously, the price of worms may be high, but in the long run it may be a good buy.

LAST, BUT NOT LEAST. G. T. Milton of Sparta, New Jersey who wrote to us sometime ago about the man who ran into difficulty when he was "bitten" by a crab, wrote again to thank us for our answer to his

questions and to tell us that he intended to pursue the matter further with the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia. "No, I am not a hypochondriac, but I am a seeker of complete information required to perform efficiently in the sport of fishing; my engineering background does not always serve in the quest and I must ask both technicians and doctors alike in my efforts to accrue all pertinent information. At any rate, I think that you have defined the real ground between newspaper sensationalism and total ignorance." In our Fish Talk response, we cautioned against the danger of a glass-inflicted gash and Milton agrees that there is a danger, but also says that he's willing to take the consequences. However, in explaining that position, he gave us a very apt description of a fisherman plying his trade that we thought was worth reading. "Have you ever left the warm bed of your wife in the wee hours of the morning to spend a day on a damp, cold, smelly boat that has not rest room facilities? Have you handled bait, chum, etc., and had no place to wash; therefore, you perform an act that rivals the world's best juggler by eating the total sandwich while holding it through the wrapping? Do you have your wife cut your sandwiches in small pieces so that you can pop them in your mouth without taking your fingers off the fishing line? Per any non-fishing person, you are insane if you do these things!" You are absolutely right, and I can see myself draped with mussel chum, gloves, several layers of clothing, and frostbite trying to eat a sandwich and drink the coffee while fishing and trying to do so before the coffee gets cold.

BEST CHOWDER! It turns out that our friend G.T. makes a great chowder. "At the risk of sounding like a braggart, I make the best chowder in the east. It takes approximately one weekend to make. The clams are processed into small pieces so that they can be boiled for the four to six hours that this chowder cooks without becoming large rubber blobs... My hope is that boiling for an extended period not only disperses the flavor throughout the soup, but also kills any germs. Your humorous remarks about the autoclave have me wondering if I am killing what I think I am." Incidentally, the couple make a very large batch of chowder when they set to work and freeze much of it for future use. When I say a large batch, that's what I mean. Would you believe one bushel of clams goes into each batch! Well, I still can't help but wonder why you are so intent on worrying about bacteria and other "germs" in your clams and clam chowder. Look, you can get very ill by just taking in a breath of air that is laced with microbes, but why worry about it. Unless your clams are coming from polluted waters that have been declared off limits by the DEC, why worry? When I make my chowder, I don't add the clams until the last ten minutes of simmering and thus the pieces are tender and the soup is as flavorful as any I have tasted and better than most. If I were to worry about microbes from clams out of clean waters, I wouldn't eat clams! Relax, life is too short. If indeed, you make the best chowder in the East (a tall order), then why not enjoy it. I haven't caught hepatitis, yet—so why should you?



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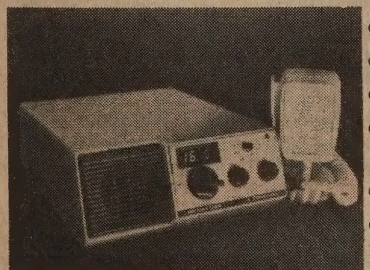

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CAPTAIN'S TABLE
with Andy Regina

Linguine with Crab Sauce

Eileen and I were completely alone for a change. My son had gone out earlier and her mom was sleeping like a baby; so we luxuriated in our togetherness by lounging around and watching the boob tube. Years ago we would have preferred to relax in a different manner, in a different room, but twenty-six years of married life precludes such impetuous acts—besides which, I was completely bushed. It was a Sunday evening and I looked forward to watching Monday Night Football twice in a row, because the Cowboy game was a bonus supplied by Channel Seven that week, and I had a couple of bucks on Dallas. I had indulged in a too-infrequent double-header that weekend: bluefish Saturday night and a shot at some stripers early Sunday morning, and the exertion had me pooped. Not that I caught so many fish, mind you, just that the unaccustomed work from the beach twice in a row told my flabby muscles to relax a bit—you understand, don't you?

Anyway, there I was, sprawled out on the couch in my underwear and sipping on a cold brew, taking in the pre-game highlights, when the doorbell rang. Expecting my son's friend to drop by with the modest winnings of that weekend's football ticket, I yelled out for him to come in, whereupon I got quite a surprise, for in place of the boy next door, in walked my friend and his wife—and me in my drawers! Doing an impersonation of Sally Rand, I backed away, trying to hide my bulk behind two tiny throw pillows, mumbling something or other until I reached the haven of my bedroom. Once properly clad, I faced my impromptu guests, and we retired to the dining room for coffee.

I had set a tentative fishing date with my friend, who keeps a boat trailered at his summer place in Port Jefferson, but the strong northwesterly winds that sprang up Saturday forced a cancellation. To compensate for not being able to launch in the Sound, my friend had motored over to the South Shore, where he spent a pleasant day in the lee of the island, catching blueclaw crabs. Now, on his return back to his home in the Bronx, he stopped by to offer us some of his bounty: he literally had a bushelful of crabs, and we gladly accepted a couple of dozen.

When they left, I had to clean the crabs before Eileen would let me resume watching my interrupted football game. She's deathly afraid of "those things" while they are alive and kicking, but sure knows how to cook 'em when they are field-stripped according to her cooking instructions. Resignedly, I stood at the kitchen sink, gingerly lifting the crabs out of a huge plastic pail, whereupon I removed the carapace, broke each crab in half, washed each half under cold running water, then placed each part in a large bowl. And as I cleaned, I reminisced, dreaming of all the long-ago trips I had made for blueclaws, which brought Uncle Vito to mind, because some of those trips had been made with him.

Not that he ever actually went crabbing, mind you. He was above that, always impeccably dressed in expensive suits and Gucci shoes; but he sure did love my mom's linguine with crab sauce, and he and dad used to sit around the dining table long after everyone else had quit with a bellyful, eating crabs and drinking wine. When Uncle Vito wanted crabs, we'd go to a large Italian fish market—either in the Fordham section of the Bronx, or way downtown near Mulberry Street, in Little Italy. There my Uncle always was received very warmly by the proprietor, usually smothered in an embrace and kissed on both cheeks in accompaniment to a beaming smile and a vocal outpouring of some strange dialect of Italian that I was unable to comprehend. When I was introduced as his Godson, I dreaded it because the guy's hands smelled fishy and his moustache scratched when he kissed me. I had to submit though, out of respect to my Uncle, so the proprietor would not be insulted; so I always held my breath and shut my eyes till the ordeal was over.

After a few minutes of animated conversation and usually a mysteriously produced glass or two of anisette, my Uncle would point to the wicker basket of live crabs and remark on their freshness, suggesting without uttering a word that he would like some. It never failed but that the proprietor would always take my Uncle inside the back room to show him larger and fresher crabs, and insist that he accept a basketful, "for old time's sake." Not wishing to insult his old friend, my Uncle always humbly accepted his donation, remarking in a voice intentionally loud enough for others nearby to hear that old Pasquale, or Vincenzo, or whoever, certainly had the freshest seafood in town. Naturally, this served three purposes: it prompted others to patronize the store Uncle Vito "shopped" at; it never failed to leave the proprietor beaming, and it certainly provided lots of crabs for us!

Now there are lots of ways to prepare blueclaw crabs, but the way we like 'em best is when they are cooked into a spaghetti sauce. It might be a lot of work and take more preparation than other methods, but it's the way my mother learned it from her mother, and the way Eileen learned it from my mom, and it is truly delicious. Try it and see for yourself—chances are that you'll become addicted to it also, as countless generations of my people have.

Linguine with Crab Sauce

Ingredients (Serves four)

8-12 crabs
4-5 cloves of garlic
3-4 whole stalks of celery, leaves included (chopped)
4-5 sprigs of Italian parsley (chopped)
3-4 tablespoons Italian olive oil
1 can of Italian tomato paste
1 lb. box of linguine fini
salt and pepper to taste

Heat olive oil in large saucepan; saute garlic, chopped celery, and chopped parsley until soft. Add can of tomato paste (set empty can aside for later water measures), cook for about five minutes at moderate heat, stirring until oil is completely absorbed. Add two or three canfuls of water and salt and pepper to taste. Simmer for about thirty minutes, adding additional water if necessary. Add cleaned, washed, and drained crabs and let simmer for additional twenty minutes. Serve hot, over individual dishes of cooked pasta. Excellent cooking instructions for linguine, as well as other pasta, can be found printed on package. Linguine is traditional Italian pasta for seafood dishes, something to do with the flat surface that makes spaghetti less desirable, but still adequate for many people. Discriminating palates further demand a thinner strand of linguine; hence our recommendation to use linguine fini, which literally means, "fine linguine"—thinner than regular linguine.

Perfect accompaniments for this meal are the usual: a dry red wine, such as any good Chianti, crusty Italian bread, and a tossed green salad. Our vague description of recipe amounts arises from the fact that exact amounts are difficult to extract from any Italian cook. Masters (or Mistresses) of the kitchen range, Italian culinary artists cook basically by instinct, adding a pinch of this or some of that, improvising along the way, and can never be pinned down to exact amounts. The only thing they all seem to agree on is that it is better to make too much than too little.

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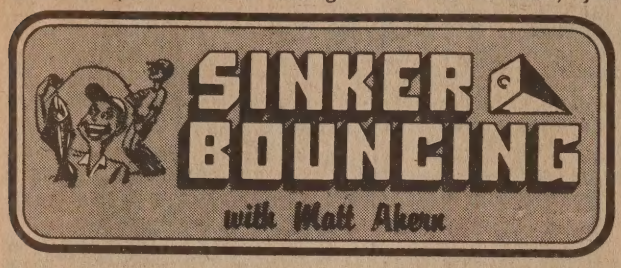

How To Foretell Weather

I have no bone to pick with radio or TV weather people, but I do have plenty of gripes about the information they dispense to those of us who depend so much on the accuracy of their forecasts. How many times have you been promised fair weather only to awake to blustery winds or heavy rain? And by the same token, how many times have you been promised foul weather (and on the strength of this forecast, you reluctantly cancelled your plans), only to awake in the morning to such glorious weather that you were one step from crying or committing mayhem? I recall fishing one time in a heavy snowstorm which was blanketing the entire Northeast, only to be told by the local radio weatherman (less than twenty miles away) that the sun was shining. My God, the least this fellow could have done was look out the window! Don't hold it against the individual forecaster, though: he receives his information—good, bad, or indifferent—from the professional Weather Bureau personnel. He rarely interjects his own opinion. The best this embarrassed fellow can do on the next broadcast is to ignore his disastrous forecast, or tell you some mumbo-jumbo about an unexpected "front" which somehow miraculously formed overnight. I know that on many occasions I've listened or watched these fellows give their forecast on the late new programs and I've turned to my wife and said: "Boy, is that guy going to look foolish tomorrow." With such lackadaisical weather reporting so prevalent, it is high time we fellows took it upon ourselves to do our own forecasting. If you get in the habit of doing this, I guarantee you'll do a better job.

To get you started, I'll list some of the weather signs I've been using for years.

First of all, whether you believe this or not, let me say that weather-wise, Nature **always** tells a knowledgeable fisherman what she has in store for him. It is then up to each of us to interpret what that something is. This intelligence can be in the form of wind direction or cloud effects, but it is there. Always! And it is never wrong!

Let's take clouds first.

If your friendly forecaster tells you that the morrow will be fair, but you notice the sunset clouds have (or had) a bright, yellow cast—batten down the hatches, for it will surely blow. If those clouds have a pale-yellow look, bring along your rain gear.

If the morning is fair, but clouds on the horizon are sharply defined, you can expect wind. If those clouds appear delicate and cotton-like, the good weather will hold, but you can expect a fair amount of breeze. If they are wispy and ragged on the edges, expect a rainless day with strong winds—probably from a westerly quarter.

Small, patchy, dark clouds at daybreak—especially in the east—mean rain; quite possibly on the next change of tide if that change is at least five hours off and it concides with low tide. (Rains of long duration often begin on low water.)

If cotton-like clouds show a delicate tint of color in early morning, the weather for the day will remain fair, but if other more distant clouds are cast with distinct bright colors, look for rain and strong winds within twenty-four hours.

If the first indication of daylight is high in the heavens (called a high-dawn by many) and above high clouds clinging to the horizon, don't be fooled by Nature's beauty. She's throwing you a fast curve. Expect really strong winds throughout the day. The higher the sun ascends as the morning progresses, the stronger will become the winds.

Rain signs:

A south wind can be expected to bring rain if its duration is more than twelve hours.

Should an east wind veer to the northeast, you can expect several more days of poor weather. If this occurs in winter, expect snow. When the storm is over, the next day will usher in strong, cold, northwest wind, probably of forty-eight hours duration. But the fishing will be good—if you can get out there with a large enough boat. This is because of a rising barometer brought about by that northwest wind, which, in turn, sets the fish to feeding; but between you, me, and that proverbial lamp post—stay home! A winter gale at sea is no pleasure, I assure you.

When distant sounds become loud and distinct, look for rain—or snow.

Here's one for you (if the distaff members of your family will allow you to do it). Hang up several strands of seaweed, preferably away from the kitchen, and keep your eye on it before you plan a fishing trip. It will stay dry during fair weather, but if rain is on the way, it will turn damp and gooey. I've never tried this, so you'll be on your own. But my buddy Artie Leidecker says it works—and I believe anything he says. He tells me he got the idea from his grandfather who used this type of forecasting at least 100 years ago.

If there are breaks in the clouds of a night sky and starts can be seen peeking through, expect rain the next day.

On a clear night, if stars are uncommonly bright, seemingly within reach, and appear as if their color is pronounced, with flaring reds, bright whites, and twinkling blues, expect a change at sunrise—and not for the good.

If smoke from a wood fire refuses to rise on a quiet morning, look for rain sometime during the day.

A halo around the sun or moon usually means a drastic change in weather in about twenty-four to thirty-six hours.

Expect possible weather changes twenty-four hours before full moon time. Some professional forecasters will tell you the full moon does not seriously affect weather—but you and I know better. Occasionally, the weather will remain good, but be prepared for the worst Nature has to offer.

High, wispy clouds that resemble a horse's tail in flight (mare's tails), or a sky that resembles the wavy marking of a mackerel's back (mackerel sky) also denotes a weather change. Usually within thirty-six hours.

A westerly wind which suddenly dies out, then blows lightly from the north for any duration will shift overnight to the east and bring rain—or snow.

When grass is dry at sunrise, rain or snow will come.

Now for some important fair weather signs:

Clouds high in the sky during late afternoon mean good weather will continue for another twenty-four hours.

If there is dew in the morning, that day will continue fair; but hold some doubt about the next—unless it, too, is heralded by dew.

When out on the water at sunrise, cast an eye to the east. If clouds appear, note their base. If of a pink or dusky rose and the entire sky brightens, look for a beautiful day. (You'll catch fish, too.)

When morning fog burns off by noon, the day will be fair.

Now for a little change:

As a rule, the following will hold true. A north wind brings a weather change. If begun immediately after a westerly breeze, the weather will turn sour; if begun after an easterly flow, it will be clear.

Easterly winds from any quarter bring foul weather. An old-timer I knew as a kid once told me that a wind

blowing directly from the east blows down on the sea, making for those ground swells we know so well. All others, he said, blow along the surface.

A south wind brings rain, or dampness.

A southwest wind in summer brings high humidity and soaring temperatures. In winter, it often heralds the approach of a nasty storm.

West and northwest winds bring clearing weather, cold or heat, depending upon the season.

Thunder heard in winter means colder weather approaching.

Weather forecasting can be done inside the house, but I am not overwhelmed by its seeming ease. Many fishermen I know use a barometer to help in forecasting weather, but unless you have paid out good money for it, don't expect too much. That needle has a stubborn habit of sticking and unless you remember to tap the case before reading, it can throw you off.

Generally a rising barometer foretells good weather, one that falls, poor weather. The more rapidly it falls, the sooner will the weather come apart—especially when accompanied with an east or northeast wind. The more rapidly it rises, the sooner will the storm abate—especially if the wind veers to the south or southwest.

What I have just written in this article are the observations of many years. You can depend on them, but remember: when one deals with Nature, there is no truly hard, fast rule. For instance, I've occasionally seen excellent weather on an east wind when everything I've learned tells me it should be poor. These inconsistencies will and do happen, but not so often that you cannot put what you've just read to use and come out ahead.

So, the next time you turn on your radio or TV, listen to what the weatherman has to say—then look outdoors and do your own personal forecasting. If your findings do not agree with the Weather Bureau, trust your convictions. I wouldn't be a bit surprised if your predictions are more accurate. Don't forget: Nature may cover her intentions, but she is generous enough to give you some sign. They are there—it is up to you to read them correctly. A little experience is all you need.

You'll find, too, that eventually you will develop a sixth sense. It won't be long before fishing buddies and your family will be seeking your opinion of what weather changes to expect. It happens all the time. It will happen to you.

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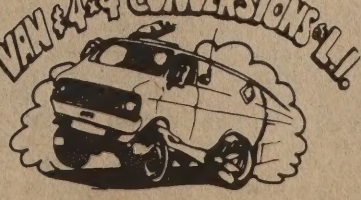

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It isn't exactly Montauk's North Bar in October, but during December, January, and March, it's the next best thing. Human progress has surely wrought its share of devastation; but man's machines and technology have also produced their benefits—and I don't necessarily mean "less work for mother" gadgets either.

This country uses more electric power per capita than any other and that means that we have constructed power plants everywhere that man needs electricity and the environment can accommodate the factory. There are power plants on rivers, lakes, and plastered right up against the sea. From Georgia to Delaware to the Connecticut River and northward, the power plants are part of the landscape.

It isn't my intention to become involved in a debate about the dangers of power plants to the marine environment—Lord knows that I do enough of that. Still, no matter how you cut it, the warm water effluents from power plants do produce good winter fishing in many areas. It seems likely that these generating monsters will be with us for some time and, therefore, it seems foolish not to take advantage of the fishing opportunities.

Although they may differ in size, design, location, and color, power plants have one feature in common. That is, they use relatively cool water to take heat away from the power generating system. It works similar to the radiator in your car, except that instead of circulating the same water over and over again, the power plant takes cool water from one place, runs it through the system where it is heated, and then pumps the warmed water out of the plant and back into the environment. In the summer, most of the fish and invertebrates will avoid the plume of warm water that flows out of the plant. But in the winter some species may become trapped in the warm water or linger too long in Long Island Sound and then seek refuge in the plume.

It is easy to understand how game fish can become trapped in the warm effluent. Baitfish may stop migrating when they intercept the plume and perhaps they become confused about which way is south! Then, migratory game fish, which are initially attracted by the abundant bait, soon find that the surrounding water has become too cool and they may be discouraged from further migration. Striped bass are by far the most common species to be found in the warm water effluents from northeastern power plants probably because they have a tolerance for extreme fluctuations in temperature.

But there have been other species taken from the effluent, too. About six years ago a school of jack crevalle somehow found their way into Long Island Sound and sought protection from the cold water in the Northport plume. That same year, there was also a large school of medium sized bluefish at the Northport power plant and anglers had a ball battling three different species of game fish on light tackle. One day there would be a blitz with bass, the jacks would slam everything in sight on another occasion, and the blues would join the action almost continuously. The action was fantastic until the power plant was forced to shut down for a few days for maintenance. Unfortunately, the blues and jacks succumbed to the cold. I guess the bass slipped in and out of the semi-comatose state that they assume in winter, because when the plant went back into operation, the stripers were there and as hungry as ever.

Although I like my fishing as much as anybody, I will not subject my body to the abuse that some surf fishermen do. I am sure that each power plant produces best during a precise set of conditions and those along

Long Island's North Shore produce well when the wind blows out of the north or northwest. Unfortunately, wintertime air temperatures invariably dip when the wind blows from a northerly direction and frequently you'll be taking fish when the wind chill factor is zero or below!

Nonetheless, I usually make several trips each winter—usually in late February and early March. Towards the end of the winter, the north wind may lose some of its sting, yet still create ideal conditions for fishing there.

If you have never done this kind of fishing before, you had better prepare yourself for a much different ball game than is in vogue during the regular season. This is kind of like an exhibition season, and neither the fish nor the fishermen are quite up to snuff, so the rules have to be bent a little. Where the smart surf fisherman is always looking for rips, bars, troughs, and obstructions during the peak months, he is now looking for locations by plotting temperature curves. It pays to have one of those plastic depth gauges with a thermometer that can be cast out and then retrieved. The device gives the depth and temperature of the area where it was cast and allowed to settle. In any event, each power plant will have to be "read" before the angler can try to predict likely productive periods and places.

He will have to know something of both the bottom topography and the shore line characteristics, too. These features will help to determine the direction that the plume will travel and how much it will spread out as it moves away from the plant. Other important parameters will include the volume of the effluent per day, whether the plant is in operation continuously or intermittently, whether nearby areas hold bass in season, and whether the effluent is contaminated with toxic chemicals that are used to clean the plumbing of the plant.

Once the angler has "doped" these things out, he can proceed to look for fish. If there are rips, rock piles, bars, and/or troughs in the plume these will only serve to enhance your chances of success. A wind that blows against the plume and bends it towards a fishable area is likely to be the most productive wind direction.

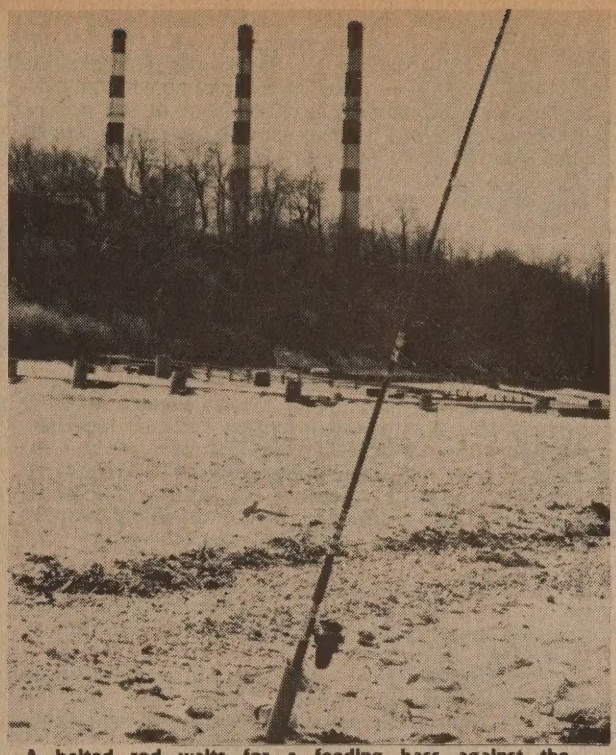
Therefore, do not assume that the most successful fishing spot will be close to the source of the warm water. It may be that temperatures are uncomfortable there; it will depend upon the temperature of the effluent and the rate of flow. At the Northport plant, the fishermen often like to fish to the east of the power plant at Crab Meadow Beach. Yet, further to the west at the Glenwood Landing plant, the fishermen ply the effluent right at its source because the plant puts out a smaller volume of warm water and the depth at the outflow is considerable.

There are mostly small fish in these warm water fingers, but there are a few large fish amongst the youngsters. Most of the regular fishermen are content to take fish up to seven or eight pounds, knowing that they would otherwise have to travel thousands of miles to get action for bass in winter.

My introduction to power plant antics took place about seven years ago. The papers sounded the alarm that bass, blues, and jacks were at Northport for the taking. The blues and the jacks were in the warmer water close to the plant and the bass were strung out in the easterly portion of the plume. We parked at Crab Meadow and made the long walk to the source of the warm water. The air temperature was 17°, three inches of fresh snow adorned the sand and rocks behind us, and a bitter wind choked us. All this and at 6AM, too!

I carefully asked Frank what we were doing there, but he couldn't rationalize it either. I guess that the Friday night fishing column started our adrenalin flowing which, in turn, gave us the courage to make plans, and then neither of us had the guts to admit that we really didn't want to go.

When we arrived at the plant, a huge cloud rolled out of the channel that carried the warm water, and slid out into Long Island Sound. About a quarter of a



A baited rod waits for a feeding bass against the backdrop of the power plant smoke stacks.

One of my favorite power plant rigs is the dropper. A white popper without hooks and a trailing bucktail does the trick.

HIT 'EM HARD! Other anglers look on as one lucky fisherman scores with sea worms.

mile from the beach the wind would break it up and dissolve it in the crisp, dry morning air.

But there were fish on the beach and that's all I needed to see in order to get up the courage to remove my gloves and start casting. I can't say that the action was hot and heavy, but it rarely is; still here and there a fish was taken and almost everybody went home with at least one bluefish on the stringer.

I tried a five inch silver Swedish style swimming plug, but other anglers used swimmers that were as small as three inches. The blues also responded to small popping plugs.

Here and there a three pound blue exploded behind a popper, while small bunker and spearing sprayed like rain before the feeding choppers.

I was intrigued by the strange winter scene complete with ice encrusted guides, steaming nostrils, ski masks, and bluefish. While I daydreamed, a blue bumped my plug and before I put my reflexes together I'd lost him. I made another cast of only sixty feet against the wind, but a blue was waiting to inhale it. The light rod seemed to object, resisting any change in shape produced by the running fish. Everything seemed to be frozen including the rod—and especially my fingers.

It was amazing how easily you could lose control of a running fish when your fingers lose their tactile sense and the reel handle becomes slippery with a thin film of ice.

But it did feel g-o-o-o-od! Imagine a bluefish in January. That's living, friend! "Don't quit yet," I pleaded with the fish to sustain the fight a little longer, but the battle was over all too quickly.

This fishing has the added bonus of pre-freezing the fish before you leave the beach. That first time I ate the fish that I had caught, but I was disappointed in the flavor and the texture of the flesh. In fact, one of the blues that was left in the freezer for about a month developed black blotches and was discarded. Now I am not saying that these fish are dangerous to eat, rather that it is my preference now to catch the fish, have my fun, and release them carefully. I simply do not like to eat fish when it isn't gourmet quality. Still, many other fishermen tell me that they eat the bass and blues from the warm water plume all winter and that they find the flesh to be delectable. That's what makes horse racing! I have noticed that many of the bass have fin rot and/or Lymphocystis which also does not affect the quality of the flesh. The increased frequency of these diseases is probably a result of the crowding of the fish into a narrow plume and cannot be blamed on pollution.

Because of the cold air temperatures, the fisherman must follow careful release procedures lest the fish die of shock. The best approach is to remove the hooks while the fish is still in the water. The warm water will be easy on the hands and the fish should swim away smartly.

Oddly enough, a variety of techniques takes fish. I say odd because you might think that one procedure would outproduce others in such a relatively small area of water with rather homogeneous conditions.

Although many fishermen prefer to use sea worms here as elsewhere for bass, small swimmers, popping plugs, bucktails, plastic eels, small surgical tube leadheads, and tiny tins work well too. The bait fishing is probably the easiest to take, because you can drink from a hot cup of coffee, warm yourself against a beach fire, or just stick your hands in your pockets while you wait for a pick-up.

The fish hit well both at night and during the day, although the ranks of fishermen swell when both the temperature and the sun rises. It's a pleasant way to spend a winter's day, especially if it isn't too cold and the football game is blacked out. You can stroll up and down the beach exchanging stories with other regulars or simply contemplate nature's gifts to mankind. It is a relaxed atmosphere. There is none of the fierce competition that characterizes the fall fishing. There aren't enough big fish around to get anybody in an uproar and everybody knows it.

Usually the fish will not show when they move in close. However, from time to time there are blitzes. The behavior of the fish depends to a great extent upon the water temperature and the pattern of the plume's dispersal along the beach. The pattern of warm water can change from tide to tide, day to day, or hour to hour without any obvious alteration in the weather.

When the warm water is close to the beach, so, too, will be the bass and the bait. If the plume stretches out into a long, narrow comfort zone within casting range, the fish may hit steadily throughout the falling tide.

Although I have made it sound complicated, the average power plant fisherman simply waits for a wind from a specific direction. The addition of the extra analysis adds to the excitement and to the size of the catch. So friends, are you bored this winter? Has cabin fever caused you to scream at your wife and kids? If so, why not do your family and friends a favor and power up some winter bass?

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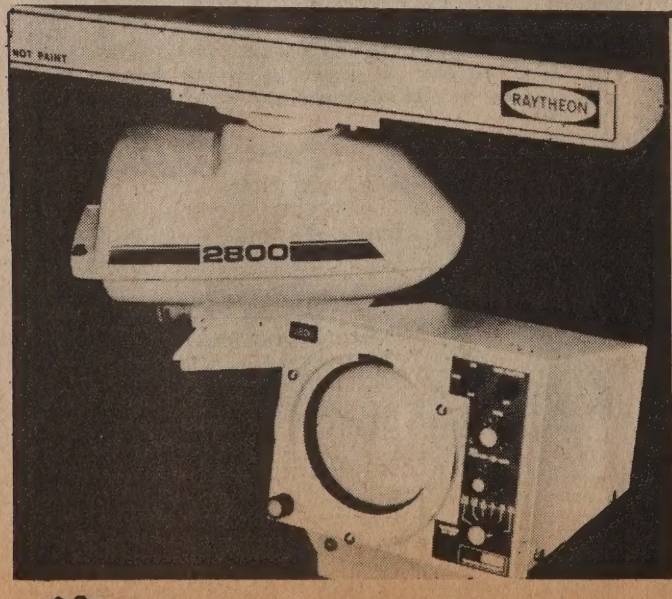

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COMPUTERIZED GUIDE SPACING

by Gary Diamond

The fascinating art of custom rod building is growing in popularity with every passing day; but as many veterans of this craft will tell you, there's always something new to learn.

Guide spacing has always been an age-old problem. Often, what is right for one six foot blank, won't do for another of the same length. Some will require five guides, while others will need more or possibly less and the spacing will differ, depending upon the action or taper. The length of the handle and placement of the reel seat is of paramount importance in determining just where that first guide should be installed. There is no chart I know of that will give you this information accurately, but now there is a sure-fire method that won't leave you with any guesswork and takes into account ferrule-position also.

Several months ago, Ed Russell, a local rod builder and computer expert, went to work to solve the guide spacing problem with a mathematical formula. After a short trial-and-error session, he mastered the right geometric equation to accurately place guides on any blank, simply by knowing a few facts about the rod.

The information needed to feed the computer is: overall rod length, reel seat placement, ferrule location and the action of taper of the particular blank. Armed with this knowledge, the computer will give you the exact placement of guides for the particular rod blank you are going to use. It also gives you the option of using a five or six guide configuration which was almost unheard of until now.

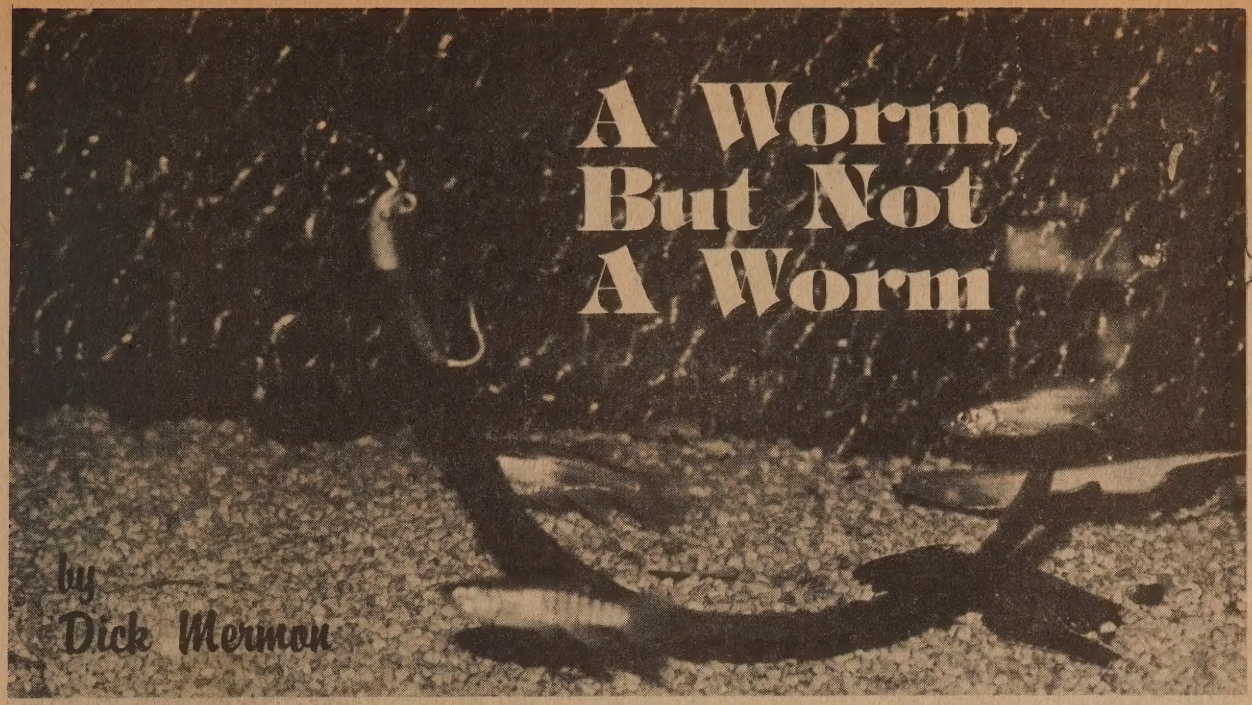
This service is available through Boyd Pfeiffer's Tackle Crafters, at a cost of $3.50—which is a real bargain these days. If you're buying the components from Boyd, the cost is only $2.50 with the purchase of the blank, making it the buy of the year for most rod builders.

When I first heard of this new service, I was a bit skeptical, but after using it for the first time, am thoroughly convinced it's the way to go—especially if you're just starting out and building your first rod.

A few weeks ago, I was confronted with the problem of building two custom Fiberglas rods for a customer, that had to be the slowest action I've encountered. After going through several guide spacing charts and finding nothing that would work, I called Ed Russell. About an hour later, he called with the computerized spacing and I went to work taping the guides in place to see how the configuration looked for this noodle of a rod. They were perfect in every detail.

If you're interested in obtaining this service, write to: Tackle Crafters, 14303 Robcaste Road, Phoenix, Maryland 21131 and they will be happy to supply you with the information. You'll really find it helpful, whether you've built one rod or several and the cost is right...

There's no longer any guesswork involved when you buy the components to build a custom rod.



A Worm, But Not A Worm

by Dick Mermon

By fish standards, the so-called "rubber worm" is not a worm at all, but a strip of red licorice-scented candy and just as sweet-looking as it tastes. Titled a "rubber worm" by fishermen because of shape, the darn thing stretches like rubber, feels like rubber, is as pliable as rubber, but is not actually rubber at all. This artificial attractor of fish is a pre-space age by-product, designated by chemists as one of many petrochemical product derivatives of crude oil.

Most of us know what PVC pipe is, but in comparing it to a soft imitation worm, one would say there is absolutely no similarity between them. Ah, but there is! Although one is stiff as a wooden two by four, the other has flexibility and limpness, yet both originate from the very same by-product: Poly Vinyl Chlorid, or PVC. Its form takes the shape of highly pulverized white powder. This fine dust is mixed with a liquid called a "plastesizer," chemically labeled as Di Octal Phithalate, or in laymen's terms, DOP. When these two ingredients are combined, their atoms jell into a milky colored liquid. In a cool state, homogenized molecules making up the solution are in total confusion, but when heated to a temperature of 300° F., they begin aligning themselves to produce a jellied substance called "resin." As it cools, the material hardens to a more solid state, forming either a very unyielding shape, or a pliable one. Depending on the amount of plastisol, or softening agent added to the cooking resin, creates a range in various degrees of bendable or firm objects.

Since PVC tubes are required to be non-flexible and firmly strong, they demand less softening agent in a mixture. Hence, a "rubber worm" must sustain a great deal of softening liquid to make it supple and every manufacturer has their own particular texture. So, like the PVC pipe, which is not considered a pipe in terms of metal, the rubber worm is not rubber at all, but a "vinyl plastisol worm"; better still a "plastic worm."

There are more than 250 manufacturers of plastic worms scattered throughout the United States, not to say the least for the amount of home and garage cookers. The original worm came about in a very unique manner, well before its time.

Nick Creme, president and founder of the Creme Lure Company, Tyler, Texas, heard about this new type of soft vinyl plastic that could be manipulated into various forms with little difficulty. At the same period of time, Walt Disney was already utilizing the substance for animated characters in facial expressions, as well as arm and leg manipulations. DuPont Chemical Company handled the resin where Nick obtained the liquid and formulated with their assistance, soft vinyl blocks of bounceable simulated rubber. Today, most plasticizers and additives are manufactured by Firestone and Goodrich, but DuPont stays well advanced in new formulas.

The year was 1949 and being an imaginative fisherman, Nick Creme decided an imitation worm of some sort had to be fashioned, especially from this matter. Its flexibility and texture was so natural to touch that if it were done properly, it had to fool fish. Tremendous amounts of time was spent researching the product in libraries and chemical laboratories seeking information about plastisol. The most difficult part was the tedious job of trying to obtain some type mold that the cooling liquid would not stick to. An ice cream manufacturer at the same time was also inquiring about these soft and hard vinyls to shape new eatables in and so this became mold material for Nick's worm also. His first attempt was merely a long, slender shoelace, about seven inches long. The funny looking thing resembled no more a worm than a red pencil, but largemouth bass loved it. Even the sunnies, bluegills and perch pecked away at it, thinking the fool thing was alive.

At that same period of time, there was a great demand for natural bait in saltwater fishing, whereas largemouth bass angling was low keyed. So Nick, seeing an opportunity to capture the salty species market with this new material, especially with striped bass (which were on the increase in 1950), designed the two most popular marine sea worms: a sand and blood worm. Texture, looks, and even with slight aroma, the worms had all the earmarks of natural prey; but the creative imitation did not sell. Most saltwater anglers at that time, as is true today, were not true experimenters. These fishermen remained steadfast to tried and true methods, sort of saying "If it was good for my father, it's good for me now." This was poor judgement, as we now know and so the natural looking sea worms remained on dealers shelves. Plastic worms lived unexposed for quite some period of time until the freshwater anglers offered them to largemouth bass in the southern part of our country. With mushrooming popularity in black bass angling, soft vinyl worms became a number one artificial lure employed in freshwater.

Plastic worms are modern in design, but not contemporary inventions. Such artificials date back into the early 1800s. Fishermen have been trying to

bamboozle fish for centuries with artificial baits and worm simulations in those bygone days were fabricated from cotton, or wool yarn, fur and hair, finally leather, then rubber and latex, to the present period of soft vinyl plastic.

There are no records of just how well yarn and hair worked, but leather, rubber and latex caught some fish only because of motion. Fish were and still are highly sensitive towards the unnatural scents of these materials. Quite often an angler would coat the artificial with some type oil (Anise oil) to hide both human and lure substance odor. It was discovered that no matter how much camouflage fragrance was placed on rubber or latex lures, their original scent came through when sitting idle. Also, it was difficult in those days to inject color into the pliable material. They simply would not absorb the brilliance as vinyl does.

Each manufacturer has their own particular formula for plastic worms and ingredients which make them smell heavenly. Such fruity, or licorish flavor is an additive that can be supplemented during a cooking procedure or directly onto the worms before using. One favored method is to spray the artificials with an essence desired while they rest in a sealed ziplock plastic bag, allowing them to absorb and slosh in the earthy juices.

Since PVC plastic is not organic, soft worms remain in undiminished form under almost all conditions and elements, but liquify slightly in high heat conditions which causes the plasticizer to ooze. This situation is not a deforming one, but more of a lubricating process that protects soft plastic artificials. In fact, many anglers spray their worms with special worm oil, or even cod and mineral oil to keep them fresh and gooey. Such conditions prevent human odor from lingering and they claim (bass fishermen say this) the artificial slips into the fish's mouth easier.

Keeping vinyl worms in water only bleaches color from them, causing a more softening in texture, which is not desirable for saltwater angling. These imitations are best kept in the clear polyethylene bags they come in, or boxes not constructed of ABS plastic material. Such storage places and compartments are fabricated from soy beans and their oils attack one another. Most often a box will dissolve before the worms do. A word of caution must be injected: never place a soft deceiver onto lacquer-coated furniture like the household dining room table or night stand. Within an hour of resting, a worm imprint will occur penetrating to the natural wood. If a carrying box does not indicate "worm proof," then it should be lined with tin foil to prevent contact between the two plastics. Natural disintegration of vinyl worms is almost nil except when it comes in contact with lacquer thinner, gasoline or turpentine and, of course, toothy critters that sever them into unfishable sections. These portions can be saved and re-melted to form new worms from old.

Home brewing soft vinyl worms can be accomplished satisfactorily with some enjoyment, but the cooking procedure must be in a well ventilated location. Vapors emitted from the heated liquid can cause nausea and vomiting, but if one relishes manufacturing the slender, pliable shoelaces, equipment must be obtained. Resins, softeners, hardeners, colors and molds which are to be purchased are available from Midland Tackle, Sloatsburg, N.Y., or Merrick Tackle, Bellmore, N.Y. Instructions come with every PVC liquid, but a worm's texture, color and design is up to the "Brewmaster." In fact, there are injectors now available which can turn out totally round worms similar to commercial ones or flat bottom ones as the old-fashioned ones were.

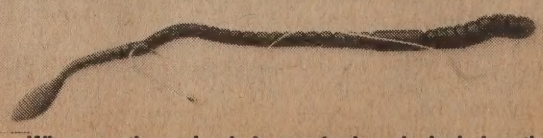
Plastic worms are undemanding lures to carry, where an angler need not impose overstuffed canvas bags, tubes, or even tackle boxes. A handful of worms, crammed into a pocket, wader pouch, or serenely under one's hat will provide enough ammunition to catch several big fish.

There are several modes of rigging counterfeit worms from floaters to noisy bottom dwellers. One uncomplicated method is by means of a nude lead jig head, whereby the hook is inserted into a worm head,

Creme Lure Company was the first to utilize soft PVC in their worms and offer a tremendous assortment of colors,lengths and beavertail design for floating action.

If you are ambitious,make certain there is some ventilation when cooking the resin and have all the necessary ingredients right at hand for the fish's gourmet delight.

One of the nicest features about rubber worms is the manner in which they may be transported, or carried without fear of smell and deterioration. A zip-lock clear plastic pouch will hold a sufficient number of imitation worms,hooks and jigs.



When a stinger hook is required a six inch length of leader material is afixed onto the head hook eye and then another smaller hook is attached and slide in near the tail.

passing the barb and brought out again. The entire artificial must lay parallel in line on a hook's shank or it will twist upon retrieve. To add swagger, replace the round type head with a Diamond Head of Tri-Fin, where the motion is that of a sea worm in transition. The company's wide-head version lifts the soft artificial upwards permitting a slower retrieve. Also, Bridgeport's small chromed diamond jig can be employed when this tantalizing movement is desired.

Short strikes on a lure require the need for a secondary hook in a worm's rear section, but not exactly on the end. By leaving this section free and untouched, its devious scheme flutters and sways with seduction. Merely tie a six inch length of light leader onto the jig-head eye and fasten a #1 short shank hook on the other end. By inserting the hook's point into the worm about two inches from the end will allow sufficient mobility, yet support the surprise on fish who short taste test lures.

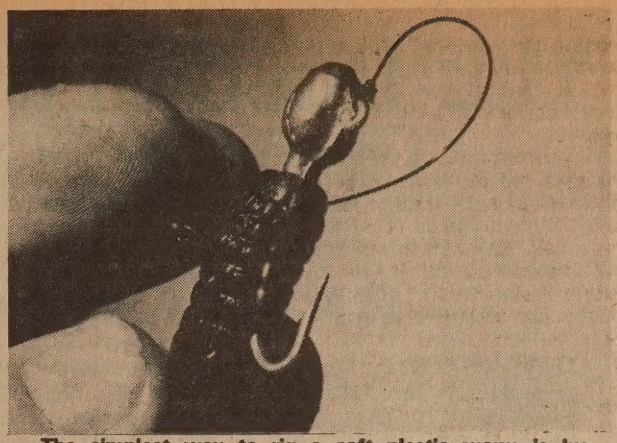
Natural floating worms are fashioned by inserting a single hook into the worm head, a total distance of the hook's length, exposing the point and barb. Once again, the artificial must lay flat and straight, or a spinning will occur, twisting the line unmercifully. This method of angling with a soft plastic worm is considered when seeking nocturnal weakfish around bridges and is fashionable for high-low rigs with three foot leaders. It is also employed as a drift bait on flats, or shallow water conditions when no or little weight is needed.

Actually ALL plastic worms catch fish, especially sea trout, striped bass, bluefish, fluke, sea robins and porgies. There are other species of saltwater game fish that will accept them providing an angler has the mind to experiment. Each manufacturer has their own particular trade name for the sake of consumers. Names are easier to remember than stock numbers, so they employ titles as "Jelly," "Shimmy Baby," "Phenome," "Flip Tail," "Buckshot," "Whip Worm," "Scoundrel," "Recoil," etc. The word "Jelly" is merely a trademark for a Manns soft plastic worm. The vinyl enticer that truly produces the finest action is offered by Creme and Mister Twister, because of their rear section bounce. "Shimmy Baby" is manufactured by Creme Company, whereby the "Phenome" is produced by Mister Twister. A primary statistic to remember is not singling out just one type, but lean more so towards action, color and texture. These are important features of plastic worms over manufactured trade names and brands.

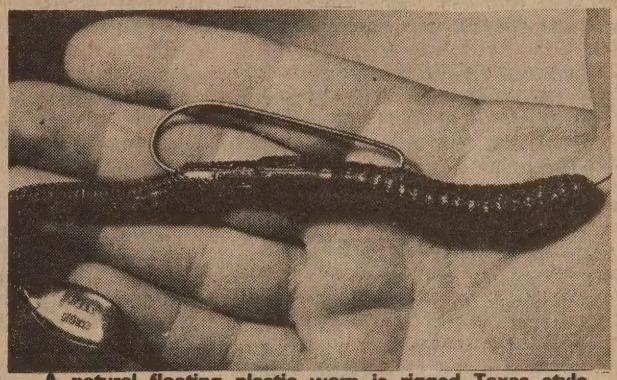
Experimentation in worm colors is the best way to determine a favored hue in an area. Fish maintain a variation of bizarre feeding habits and although they assault one tone today does not necessarily mean it will be their choice tomorrow. Water conditions and clarity modulate not only in various sections, but from day to day. What was today, the wind and tide will change tomorrow. Light situations and times of day or dark play an important role in color choice. So it is imperative that several shades be carried when seeking fish by means of plastic worms.

Dark shaded worms can be mixed together without blending into each other, except what is called "motor oil" or "STP" color. These worms resemble automobile oil in color, but shed their skin of tan, turning into a vivid green when in water. Such pigmentation has the tendency to mingle into other worms when contact is made. Also colors like white, yellow, pink, blaze orange, amber and lime will bleed into one another creating sometimes just what the fish want. These light tone worms should never be mixed with dark ones, for they sometimes create a harlequin colored monster. Even though light and dark pigments do bleed into one another, various manufactured worms will not influence each other when combined in a single packet. They are all brothers in the same fraternity.

The worm which we thought was a "rubber worm" is an imposter, but impersonator or not, the doggone thing catches fish. It is an angler's responsibility to evaluate different manufacturers of "plastic worms" away from the jello pack of strawberry, raspberry, cherry, orange, lemon and lime.



The simplest way to rig a soft plastic worm is by means of a nude lead head jig slide onto the hook's shank.



A natural floating plastic worm is rigged Texas style with the hook impaled at mid section. This is a 100% weedless lure.

The old and the new, the natural and the artificial. An old fashioned tin and sand worm rig resembles the bottom one, which is the soft plastic worm. Now a scent can be added to the shoelace like worm for moisture and aroma.

What resembled a narrow flexible length of red licorish stick to me, became a stripers downfall back in 1952 on the beach of Point Lookout, near Jones Inlet. It was one of Creme's first soft plastic imitation blood worm, set on a tandom hook.

THE CASE FOR A SALTWATER FISHING LICENSE

—READERS' COMMENTS—

EDITOR'S NOTE: ***The following letters were in response to*** **The Fighting Chair** ***editorial that appeared in the February 7th issue of L.I.F., "THE SALTWATER LICENSE: Fighting the Inevitable?" In that editorial we gave the opinion that at this time saltwater sportfishermen stand to gain much more by fighting for a well structured license NOW, rather than waiting for a meaningless license to be shoved down our throats that will be nothing more than just another tax. With that thought in mind, we are publishing a series of articles, starting in our March 6th issue, under the title*** **"The Case For A Saltwater Fishing License."** **Scott S.**

Sir: Just read Vol. 15, No. 8 Feb. 21, 1980 issue of The Fisherman. Somehow, I just can't get myself to believe that the letters you printed in response to a saltwater license were a true picture of all the letters you must have received. I say this because all my fishing buddies and many others that I have talked to are 100% against any form of saltwater fishing license. Sorry Scott, I just can't believe that your mail was so pro license. I feel that you printed those letters that suit your purpose.

As I said in my previous letter, I shall be watching with great interest to see just how you go about your campaign for a saltwater fishing TAX. *Nicholas C. Ferrar, Holbrook, N.Y.*

After the Fighting Chair editorial on the saltwater license appeared in issue Number six, we at L.I.F. were genuinely shocked at the volume of mail we received in response. It seems that most of our readers took the editorial at its word, and have been kind enough to give us the courtesy of reading the series of articles before making their decision, one way or another. In your case, Nick, you seem to have already made a decision, and therefore, have no need to hear what we have to say. Due to the small number of letters received, it was our intent to publish all of them, as long as space limitations permitted us to do do. We also intended to make no comment on the individual letters for two reasons: first, we thought it important for others to air their views on this topic without interference from our editorial influence, and second, most of the answers to the questions will be given in the series that begins next week. However, due to the charge you have made that we have "only printed letters that suit your [our] purpose," we have decided to make an exception.

So, for the record, Nick: as of this writing, we have received exactly 14 letters on the saltwater license issue. Eight were printed in last week's issue, and the remaining six are printed here—including yours. Hopefully, among the letters published in the future will be a second from you that renders a "not guilty" verdict.

* * *

Dear Scott: As you know, many people think that those working in the publishing business in the saltwater fishing field for different periodicals are automatically enemies. As you also know, the opposite is true since every effort made by one to improve marine angling will help the other, both directly and indirectly.

So, as one friend to another, let me congratulate you on the editorial in your February 7 issue concerning the license question. I agree with your approach to this very emotional question one hundred percent.

If fishermen do not get together to insist that any marine angling license funds be earmarked for improvement in our own fishing, the bureaucrats and politicians will force a bill down our throats without any regard whatsoever for the fisheries, management of those fisheries, or the fishermen themselves. Anglers *must* participate right now in forming policy concerning establishment of a license program. There is no question whatsoever that some sort of licensing program is coming in the future and we should all work together to ensure that the final product is what we want, not what some faceless governmental featherbedder wants.

All of us here at *Salt Water Sportsman* will watch the results of your reader survey with great interest. There will be some diehards who will never agree to such a measure, but my bet is that the majority will agree to your approach after the alternatives, which are frightening, have been presented.

Congratulations again—and best of luck. *Henry Lyman, Publisher, Salt Water Sportsman Magazine.*

* * *

Dear Scott, I'm writing this letter in response to your editorial on the Salt Water Fishing License. Although your editorial makes a lot of sense if you assume that New York saltwater fishermen are going to idly sit by and watch our state whiz-kids cram this atrocity down our throats, I personally give the million or so saltwater fishermen in our area more credit.

Sportsmen are becoming painfully aware of the questionable use, by the State, of the monies collected from the freshwater fishing and hunting licenses. This money, according to law, is earmarked for certain conservation usage. However, it has and is continuing to find its way into the General Fund where its identity becomes lost. Any actual usage has become a serious uncertainty. NO ONE at this time, can convince me that any monies derived from the sale of a saltwater license will end up any differently.

Recently, a major Long Island newspaper, newsday, ran a series introducing a Coastal Management Plan. Although well written, it became plain to me that New York State finally realized that there is big money in our sport, and they want their "share."

Rather than "resign ourselves to an inevitable Saltwater License," I would like to see *The Long Island Fisherman* call for all fishermen to rally and show New York that we don't want the license. If the legislators who plan on voting in favor of the license wish to be voted in again when their current term of office expires, they had better consider the feeling of the million or so fishermen who will be affected by this license.

I would suggest, therefore, that before you, as our major voice on issues concerning the sport fishermen, throw in the towel, that you consider polling your many readers. Then, based on the reaction that I expect, use your POWER OF THE PRESS to appeal to all fishermen and their families and friends to write letters, call your legislators, sign petitions and DEMAND Public

Hearings (remember the bluefish hearings?) in order that we can be heard.

Let's put this absurdity to bed for good...*Don Palmer, Baldwin, N.Y.*

***

Dear Scott: Many thanks for your letter of 7 February 1980 enclosing a copy of your article on the fishing license.

I have listened to all the arguments for and against this type of license, and I have also reviewed the various state proposals and their regulations where a license is in effect. I do believe that some form of licensing is inevitable whether the anglers like it or not.

I have heard all kind of negative statements, some passive and some quite violent; but I have heard few concrete proposals from the angling community. There are many benefits that can result from a properly planned saltwater license if the planning is well thought out.

Accepting the inevitability of a license, it would seem that the effort of the anglers should be to work closely with their state government agencies and their legislatures to ensure that the regulations are in the best interest of the angling community.

The angling needs vary from state to state and so should the regulations. Many of the needed projects in the various states will not be met unless the state initiates the effort, and it has been proven that the states will not include these amounts of money in their regular budgets. Great improvements can be effected on behalf of the saltwater anglers if the regulations are properly drawn up and the monies are channeled into the proper projects. The cost to each anglers would be small.

Freshwater licensing has shown the authorities the strength and size of the angling community, and the results are shown in the benefits accruing to the angling community. Unfortunately, the amount of saltwater anglers is not reflected in any meaningful statistics, and the weight of their combined force has not been evidenced. Saltwater licensing certainly would constantly bring the magnitude of this group of people into proper focus and would make authorities pay more than lip service to the angling needs.

The proper use of license funds could help the saltwater angler immeasurably. It would provide ongoing funds that otherwise would not accrue to the angler's benefit. We have not supported the various state proposals because we have been of the opinion that the regulations were not in the best interest of the anglers. Maybe the anglers could either propose their own regulations or work with the state authorities to develop regulations that are in the best interest of the anglers. It might surprise many people as to what might be accomplished through such an effort. *Elwood K. Harry, President, International Game Fish Association.*

***

Dear Sir: After reading your comments on a saltwater fishing license, it took me this long to cool down so that I could write you a letter that would be fit to print. I had suspected all along that The Fisherman was pro saltwater fishing license, and you finally came out and admitted it.

Well sir, I may not be as eloquent or as gifted as you in writing my feelings, but I am so damn mad that I will try to do so no matter how it sounds.

I may not have a list of pros and cons, but one thing I do have a downright good common sense. When, may I ask you, have you ever seen a bunch of politicians do anything right with a gold mine tax such as you propose. The only benefit that would be derived from a saltwater fishing tax would be to those politicians, political hacks, and favorite sons who would reap large salaries as commissioners, directors, bootlickers, etc., etc.

You say only $5 or $6 a year for the license. How about the total cost for the entire family? Or did you forget that many of your readers do have families and that they do go fishing together. How about the senior citizen, or the very young. Will the license be for a period of six months, a year, or will it be for special fish at special times only. Who knows maybe it will only be good on the third Tuesday of odd months only. Oh yes, what about the party boat skipper? Will they be allowed to give blanket coverage to their fares? And, of course, it would cost them and they, in turn, would have to pass the cost onto the people who fish from their boats.

Can you really be that naive to think or believe that once they have got their hands on that kind of easy money that this tax would stay the same for very long. Come on Fisherman, you are living in a dream world and you know it.

At the end of your editorial, you kindly say, that it is not up to you to decide the issue. Hell, you don't have to do anymore because with just that one article you have put the kiss of death upon us all. You even seem to try for a bit of sympathy (my impression) in foretelling doomsday for the L.I.F.

Yes, Long Island Fisherman, you may damn well lose some business and subscriptions and I, for one, would feel that you deserve it. At this writing my mind is still not made up. The only reason I hesitate, actually two, is that I would really miss one of your writers (I won't embarrass him by using his name) and also that I am most interested in how you will present your future articles.

Regardless of the outcome I, for one, have lost a lot of respect for The Long Island Fisherman. *Nicholas C. Ferrar, Holbrook, N.Y.*

***

Dear Scott: Just received your column in The Fisherman regarding a saltwater license. At times, I nodded, other times shook my head, and at times I smiled. Let me introduce myself: I'm Howie Berlin from the CLAIRE FLEET in the Bronx. When I was younger I was a real S.O.B., but I have mellowed

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with age. I was very active in matters pertaining to the marine district back in the late 50s and right through the 60s.

I was *the* porgy boat of the Bronx. I packed the boat with people and loaded it up with scup seven days a week for a good many years. Then came the seiners from Belford and started cleaning out entire populations of fish. I fought them practically alone. I even crashed my boat through their nets, releasing thousands of fish. They named me the "white charger" and when I was in the area they never made a set. They had me up on charges before the Coast Guard, and the N.Y. State Conservation Dept. asked me to explain my side of the story and that's how I got involved in conservation of species in the Marine District. At that time, the Director of the District was a fellow named Dave Wallace, and to help him he had a group of non-paid volunteers, appointed by the Commissioner called the "Advisory Board." I guess because of my big mouth, uncouth manner and the fact that I made sense, I was asked by the Commissioner to join. I accepted, and soon became very vocal, demanding, and influential in matters pertaining to the Marine District. You can check this with Dave Wallace or Bill Miller and Al Jensen if you wish but take my word for it. The very first thing I accomplished was getting a section put into the Conservation Law forbidding the seining of food fish within the marine district. This was my doing, and I had quite a job getting this done.

In those days the committee consisted of John Binner, who headed the Sportsmen's Council; Harry Kilthou who represented the Sportsmen of L.I.; Ed Moore, Fishing Editor of the Journal American; and a fellow by the name of Harry Rains who was an attorney, and myself representing the Party Boat Industry. And then came the other side of the committee. This was the side that ran the show (or at least they did till I got there). There was the Flower Bros. from Oyster Bay and George Vanderborg from Great South Bay's Peconic and they represented the oyster and clam industry (commercial). There was Neil Poilleon who was Secretary/Treasurer of the Long Island Fishermen's Association (the entire commercial fleet of draggers, etc.) There was Larry Clark and he headed the Fish Meal Co. and had big interest in the Smith Fleet of bunker boats in Jersey. (Senator Smith was his father-in-law.) Fred Silverstein representing the Baymen on the North Shore of Long Island and a fellow by the name of Milton Miller representing the baymen on the South Shore. This was the group that really formulated policy in the Marine District. This was part of the committee that made *all* the big political contributions. It took me two meetings (we met once a month) to size up the situation and then I knew what I had to do—and I did ot.

The first thing that happened was that they threw me a bone with that no food fish (purse seining) bill. This was done primarily to shut up my big mouth so as to allow the bunker fleet to continue to work L.I. Sound and other island waters in the marine district. But I was supposed to be a big-loud mouthed dumb party boat man and not supposed to realize this—so—being a dumb party boat big mouth, I played the game their way with one exception. I knew what was going on and what they were trying to do. They were trying to use this advisory board as their own personal lobby within the Cons. Dept. to help and pay for an manage and research and enforce and legislate laws, rules and regulations to favor commercial industries within the marine district. And to hell with everything and everyone else. They wined and dined and wooed the first part of the committee (which was us) and until I got there, they had them eating out of their hand, except for Ed Moore, who was also playing with them in his own way. After throwing me my bone they then went to work on me and it went something like this.

First, let me explain to you how we (the marine district) operated. The Budget Committee of the legislature allocated X number of dollars to the Cons. Dept. and it was then broken down into how much each district was to receive by the Commissioner's office. The Marine District's share was not enough (it really wasn't) to accomplish their missions; so I got cornholed and it went something like this.

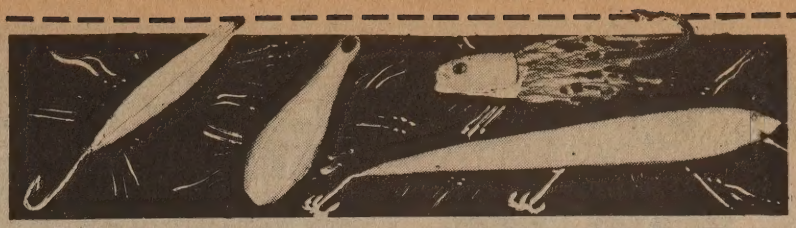
First there was the dinner and a few drinks and the usual buttering up and then came the cap: "We have to figure out how to raise money for the Marine District—we just don't have enough to operate on efficiently. Have you any ideas?" And I would say not really, have you? Then after about 5000 choice words on what we need money for, I was asked, what are your feelings on a saltwater license. I never really gave it much thought, I replied (biggest lie of the year)—what do you think? And in my own way, I weaseled out of them just what their plans were, and it went something like this.

"We have to raise about $3 million more a year to operate the Marine District in a responsible manner and we feel that with a $3 saltwater license fee, we would have no trouble in raising that amount of money. And my first question was "How much do you feel it will cost to print and sell these licenses?" Oh, we figure about 15%. Well that cuts you down right off the reel. Frankly I felt that a million licenses were overestimated and I told them so but, be that as it way, I then

wanted to know how they figured to spend the balance. Well, we figure 10% to go for research. What kind of research do you have in mind? Well, a study on starfish right now is of prime importance—you know what's happening to the oyster and clam industries. The main thing Captain, as we see it is we need more law enforcement. We need more conservation officers, more boats and up-to-date equipment so we can enforce the laws that are now on the books. I see, I said—how much do you figure this to cost. Oh, about 50% *but* (and here is the zinger) look at alla the extra monies they will bring in through fines and summons and confiscation of equipment. I see, what you have in mind is a regulated police action. Can't see that gentlemen, you're going to have the public scared to use the resource. They naturally didn't agree. How much are you going to spend for the public who is going to foot this bill, I wanted to know. Well, we figure about 10% for construction of fish havens for finfish and another 5% for construction of launching sites and for the utilization of piers and areas now in use for fishing purposes. Well, then let's get this straight. You're going to spend 15% to issue the licenses, 50% to enforce the law and 15% for construction of fishing sites and launching sites for the public. That leaves twenty percent unaccounted for—the money that you will receive from fines. Where is all this going?

Well, in tongue twisting, double-talking language, I finally gave my opinions on a salt water license for the marine district of N.Y. and it went something like this: get enough money for your study program, tell me what you decide to spend the balance on; have it cut and dried and then I'll make my decision. Until then I don't want no part of a saltwater license. And from that day I was marked lousy—but I did manage to swing all but the commercial interests to my way of thinking and I did my share of lobbying in Albany enough to keep this thing on the shelf till now.

Now Scott, I want to make myself clear—I'm not against a saltwater license, but I want to know just where the money is going to go. As far as I'm concerned it's a sportsmen's license and I feel that 100% of the money should go to the sportsmen and for the betterment of the marine district. I think the State should pay for enforcement, administration, research, etc., and that all the money collected should go for physical construction and betterment of the marine district for the sportsmen! And until then and until I am guaranteed the proper disbursements I shall remain against a saltwater license in any manner, shape or form. Sorry I took so long to bring my point out but I felt it was necessary for me to make my points completely understood. *Howard Berlin, Bronx, N.Y.*



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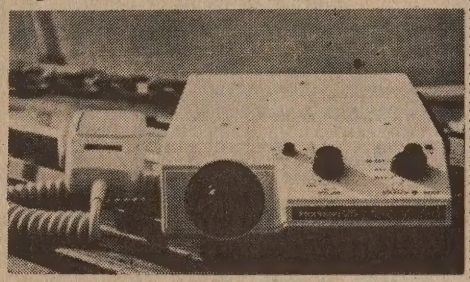

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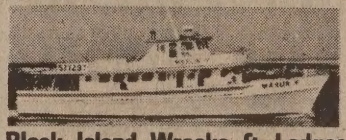

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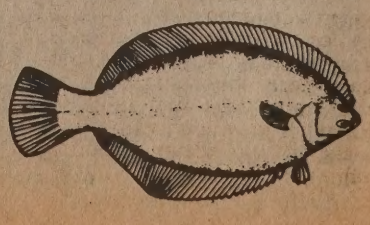

FISHING REPORTS

MONTAUK

The Marlin V had a fair weekend of codfishing with some pollack mixed in. Mrs. Rade tells us it was a slow pick with fish running into smalls and mediums for the most part. Fishing is all on clam bait with catches ranging between 5-10 fish per man.

OAKDALE

We received a call from Don Benedetto a new hand at freshwater fishing. He tells us that on Saturday morning he hooked and landed a 26'' sea run brown trout fishing the Coniquot River at its juncture with Sunrise Highway. This monster was taken on an eighth ounce hand-tied black and white bucktail.Weight of this fish was 7¼ lbs. which is huge for our area. The catch was made on 4 lb. test line on an ultra-light Shakespeare Ugly Stik and matching light Shakespeare spinner. The fish came into the net after a 10 minute fight and is being mounted.

CAPTREE

Captain Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** informs us codfishing dropped off some on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. There was a s ow pick going earlier in the week when fish were running in the 20-40 lb. range. Fish were in the 8 lb. class on the weekend. Gordon says water temp is on the increase now so there should be more action in the offing. The Queen will not be sailing Monday through Thursday as preparations are being made for the flounder season on the boat. Whether the boat will sail for cod on the weekend depends on the weather forecast.

Apparently all the ice has left the inlet and the coves.

MORICHES BAY

Larry at **L&M Fishing Station** tells us that flounders are starting in his area as evidenced by a catch of 7 flatties by Tedesco and friends. This was at buoy 45 on February 14, using corn chum and corn as hook bait. Larry says that L&M Fishing Station is now open with all of their boats in the water including the cabin models.

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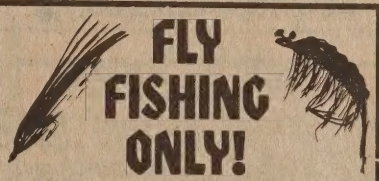

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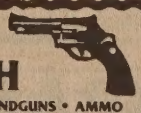

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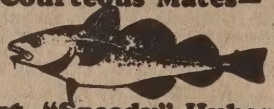

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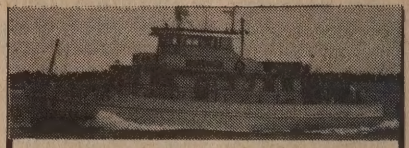

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MERRICK

Scott at **Merrick Tackle** this past week fished four of the usual productive flounder holes in Merrick Bay and came up with nothing but big rock crabs. The areas he tried were Swift Creek Bridge, the bent pole and the houses at the end of Swift Creek.

FREEPORT

Captain Jimmy Lanzaretta of the **Nite Owl II** called to say he's still sailing this winter as an open boat from the Holiday Isle Marina, Islamorada, Florida for those of you going south in the next few weeks. The boat will resume sailing large charters from the Freeport Boatmen's dock on Woodcleft Canal on May 1.

The **Starstream II** reported that last Wednesday they had a good catch of 17 cod fishing south/southeast of Jones Inlet, about 18 miles. Some of the anglers and their catches are: George Murturgh of Freeport with a 45 lb. cod, Mark Almas of Flushing had 3 cod running up to 42 lbs. and Frank Videl of Manhattan took 3 fish to 38 lbs. Action was a bit slower on the weekend but fish that were taken were all of good size. Saturday's catch totaled ten fish up to a 46 lb. cod and on Sunday, a few 41 lbers were taken.

The **Capt. Al** told of good codfishing during the week. The quantity of fish hasn't been there but the fish taken are all big. Catches totaled 8 fish last Monday, 10 fish on Tuesday, 8 fish on Wednesday. On Thursday 15 fish up to 41 lbs. were taken. The top catches of the day are as follows: Walt Pollach of Yonkers with two fish of 40 and 33 lbs., Tom Tonnesew of Brooklyn took a 41 lber and John Conito of Brooklyn had two fish of 27 and 37 lbs. On Sunday, Arthur DeRosa of Ozone Park took the pool with a 30 lb. cod. This action took place 18 miles south/southeast of Jones Inlet on clam bait.

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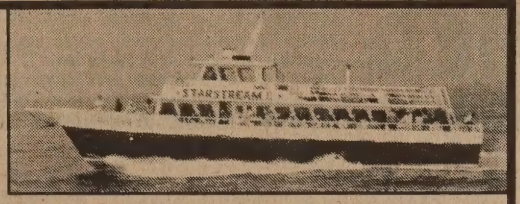

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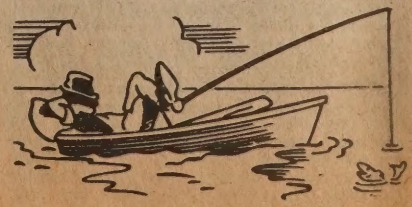

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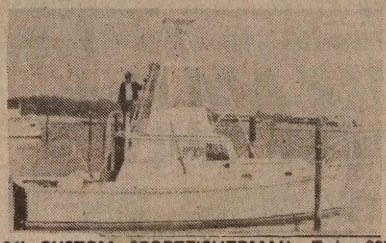

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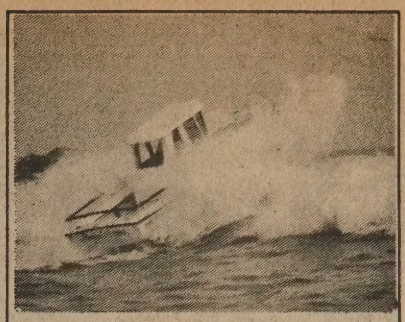

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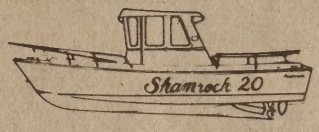

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GUIDES MILDRUM • AFTCO FUJI • FIN-NOR PERFECTION • VARMAC
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—Volume Buyers...Come talk to us!—
"We will not be undersold on any rod building components!"

GUDEBROD

Kitchy Koo

You better quit foolin' around . . . dummy!

That man's fishin' Gudebrod

Do you cast a lure, fish a bait, or jig a jig . . . miss more strikes than you hook . . . fish conventional tackle? You oughta think about Gudebrod G-6® and G-T® lines.

When that ol' weakie whacks you— Gudebrod whacks him right back . . . *fast!*

Gudebrod's low stretch factor delivers an instant strike response to even the lightest tap and . . . when you use a line with restricted stretch, it's much easier to know what's goin' on down there. Consider this advantage in a jig fishing situation, where half your strikes are on a falling bucktail or metal lure. These are the toughest hits to detect. Insensitive mono (which can stretch up to 60% more than Gudebrod) allows many strikes to go unnoticed. With Gudebrod, you feel 'em on the way down as well as comin' up— and the reaction time in setting the hook is greatly improved . . . this means more fish in the box.

We challenge you to try this conclusive test.

You'll need a friend and two spools of equal test line, one mono, the other Gudebrod G-6® or G-T®. Have your friend place a spool in each hand. Take the line ends from each spool and walk from 15 to 30 ft., as your friend feeds line out. Now, have your friend grasp the spools firmly with arms limp at his sides. Wrap the line ends around your hand several times, grip tightly and jerk swiftly as though you were setting the hook.

Watch the reaction in your friend's arms. You'll then understand how Gudebrod's instant strike response can make you a more productive fisherman.

Send $1.00 for Gudebrod's colorful Fishing Tackle Catalog.

GUDEBROD®

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Phila., Pa. 19107

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